Mint of the United States,
Jan 2, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you by the present mail, a box containing one pair of Eagle dies,- directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of New Orleans Br. Mint, to be forwarded as usual under your frank.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. P.

Do.
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 2d. 1840.

Sir,

The late Mr. Ryland ordered, from Mr. Marshall, a machinist of this city, a lathe which is now at your Mint, and of which the cost, including castings for a slide-rest, was $140. He long ago applied to me for the payment of his bill, but I informed him that it could not be paid without an order from you. He accordingly wrote, about the 18th Nov., to Mr. Philos. B. Tyler, to remit his accounts and procure the desired order. He has just called to say that he has made no answer to his application, & he has prayed me to write to you upon the subject.

With great respect,
your faithful servt,
R. M. P.

Col Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt U.S. Mint,
New Orleans.

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 3d, 1840

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 12th ult., inclosing the bond and oath of Office of Dr. Riddell. Both I have transmitted, & approved, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

If I understand the case of Mr. Parker, it is that there was a balance of $50 ~~due him for his salary for the 2d quarter of 1839~~ due him, & not drawn, at the close of the 2d quarter of 1839; although the returns for that quarter showed his salary paid: that ~~by mistake~~, this balance was subsequently paid to Mr. Parker; but, by mistake, was ~~charged~~ entered in the returns for the 3d quarter, as so much advanced to Mr. R, and for which, of course, Mr. Portalé received a credit. Now if there is sufficient evidence for believing this to be the case, Mr. Parker should receive the full amount of his

RG104 Entry 11

3d quarter's salary; and the mistake in Mr. Prestall's account be rectified by debiting him with the amt. falsely credited.

R. M. P.

To
Jos. M. Kennedy Esq.
Asst. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Jan 4. 1840.

Sir,

I send herewith a Statement of my accounts for the last quarter, of Moneys in my hands belonging to your Branch Mint, together with necessary vouchers. ~~On the 31st ult. there was a balance to your credit of~~ ~~$43.34~~

R. M. P.

Dr

To
A. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treas. Br. Mint,
N. Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Jan 7 1848.

Sir,

In a letter from the Joseph M. Kennedy Esq., Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, dated the 17th ult, he asks me "to obtain for him, from the proper Department, a statement of the different remittances made to the New Orleans Mint since it first went into operation, with the amounts appropriated to each particular branch."

Although Mr. Kennedy should have made this application to the Department directly, I must now take the liberty of making it for him, to prevent delay, as it may be necessary for the settlement of his annual accounts.

R. M. Patterson
Director

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Jan 7 1848.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 17th ult., ~~& I had ordered a letter~~ respecting the estimate for this year, and I send inclosed a copy of the letter written, in consequence, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I am confident that, with a compliance to economy, you can but approve the estimate as I have submitted it. Indeed both duty and policy require that this should be done. We have, at this Mint, between fifty and sixty workmen, and our estimate for their pay, for the present year, is but $23,000.— The estimate for incidental and Contingent expenses, including postage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, rates and taxes," is $15,000.— ~~for~~ in Dr. Boyd's, for your absent, was $25,100. Our postage for the past year, was but about $3000, on a coinage of $3,000,000.— Dr. Boyd estimates yours at $5,000. I need not tell you that such comparisons would be greatly to the disadvantage of your institution.

RG104 Entry 11

I think you justified, by the law of necessity, in employing door-keepers and guards; ~~but the law~~ because these seem to have been overlooked in the law of Congress. But it is not so with the workmen, whose number ~~of hours~~ in every it is your duty to keep down to twenty, whatever may be the consequent inconvenience and delay.

At your request, I have applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for a statement of the remittances made to your Mint.

R. M. P.

D

(Enclosing copy of my letter to Sec. of Treasury, of this day.)

To
Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans, January 8th 1840

Sir,

I herewith include a copy of the Profit & Loss Account of this Mint, which will explain how the balance of $3741.94 has been found. On that subject you will also receive an extract from a letter to our Treasurer by Dr. Hoyt.

The entry made during Dr. Riddell's absence was not worked up into coin until after his arrival. He, as you direct, recognizes the transaction as his own act and done under his responsibility. The coins delivered by the Coiner were from strips found in the late Coiner's Vault. Mr. Cammack says in a note to me, that "a greater familiarity with the duties of the office will prevent any future irregularity." I will send you in a day or two the coins reserved since the Coinage has been resumed, and as soon thereafter as it can be completed, the Statement you've to in One of your late Communications.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
J. R. Lamar
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.

RG104 Entry 11

Extract -

"In reference to the subject to which you invited my attention yesterday, I would remark that the amount of about £300 which appears in the Report of Dep^t account, has been accumulating from the commencement of operations in the Branch Mint. In 1838, the deposites were chiefly of Mexican Silver Bullion cont^g gold, requiring separation and involving heavy charges. On the very first deposite made by Messrs Lizardi in March 1838, the charge for separation alone exceeded £80. - On reference to the 16 Sect^n of the act regulating the operations of the Mint of Jan 18th 1837, it will appear that these charges are prescribed by law. "That the rate of these charges shall be fixed from time to time by the Director with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury" and that the amount received from these charges shall be accounted for, & appropriated for defraying the Contingent expenses of the Mint."

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Mint U.S.
Jan. 11/60.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., with the subjoined copy of a letter to you from D. Hart on the subject of his Assay Balance. I have conferred with [illegible] who made the balance, & [illegible] Mr. Saxton, & to D. Hart's difficulties, and he thinks that the faults complained of may be very easily remedied. He recommends the following modes.

1. If the agate has been damaged by any means, let it be pushed down to its place by the thumb.

2. Let the agate and knife-edge be wiped perfectly clean and dry, and no oil allowed on any account, also to rust.

3. If the Ys [illegible] the knife-edge do not rise high enough, or rise too high, this defect can be very easily remedied by raising or lowering a roller which will be found under the marble slab, and which is held in its place by a pivot passing through a slot and fastened by a nut, so as to be readily adjusted. The Ys must be placed as high as possible, so as not to cause the beam

4. The [illegible] are adjusted by screws in the bottom of the stems attached to them. They must be so regulated as, when raised, just to

RG104 Entry 11

being the beam horizontal, without raising the stirrups.

~~I suppose that Mr. Taylor~~ Mr. Saxton, is of opinion that these ~~except~~ can be any thing nearly with the knife edge. I am sure that Mr. Taylor would be perfectly competent to make the adjustments, under their instructions. Indeed I believe that Dr. Rost could make them himself, though he does not claim any acquaintance with practical mechanics.

If, however, you fail in your attempt to put the beam in perfect order, I will beg you to let me know, and I will then send you a beam, now belonging to our Assayer, ~~I believe to you~~ ~~must have been~~ and, which you can use until your balance can be adjusted here. It is proper to mention, however, that Mr. Eckfeldt's ~~adjusted~~ balance would cost you about $162.38, the price which he gave for it himself.

As no one here could make a new assay-balance, worthy of reliance, except Mr. Saxton, and he is so much engaged that he ~~could~~ could not undertake the task, ~~and will, we would~~ expect for a long time to come.

P. M. P.
Dr

Wm. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 15. 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one pair of dimes, and one pair of half-dime dies, of the present year. We shall continue to forward others, in the same way, until your Mint is fully supplied. As the loss of these dies might be followed by might be a serious evil, I beg you to be particular in acknowledging their receipt. Let me refer you to my letter of June 4, 1839, to your predecessor, will show you what disposition is to be made of the dies of 1839. last years dies.

I will thank you call the particular attention, and that of your Coiner to the following to the exact measurements which has been adopted for the diameters of the coins. They are fixed as follows, in thousandths of the inch:

Diameter of the	Half-dime	$\frac{662}{1000}$
" " "	Dime — —	$\frac{772}{1000}$
" " "	Quarter-dollar	$\frac{958}{1000}$
" " "	Half-dollar	$1\frac{302}{1000}$
" " "	Quarter-eagle	$\frac{910}{1000}$
" " "	Half eagle	$\frac{1.21}{1000}$

The allowance which should be made for the

RG104 Entry 11

expansion of the collars in hardening is for
the Half dollar — 5/1000 of an inch
" Quarter dollar 3/1000 " " "
" Half-eagle 1/1000 " " "
that is, the collars, should be turned that much smaller
than their proper diameter; and are made right
by the expansion of the metal in hardening.
The allowance for the three half-dimes, dime, and
quarter-eagle collars is too small for exact meas-
urement.

R. M. P.

Dr

To
Lieut. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Asst. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

Dear Sir,

The amount of Silver Bullion deposited in this Mint since 16 November, is as follows -

Gross Weight 26.562.39. Standard 24.292.17
value 26.267.09 Dollars

Gold Bullion

Gross Weight 214.55 - Standard 201.461, and value 3746 ⅔ Dollars.

I delivered to the Melter & Refiner since the commencement of operations $46.527.74, and have received from him in Ingots 41.096.69 ounces of Silver.

To the Coiner 47.626.19 ounces, and from him have received in Silver Coin 41.191.87 ℔

I have delivered to him in gold 2730.31 ℔ & received 1262.58 ℔.

The coin received have been as follows

50.000 dimes
16.000 half dollars & 9396 quarter Eagles

Up to 31 December I have paid Certificates of Silver Deposits amounting to $1069.4.71 and of Gold $ 231.95

The Melter & Refiner and Coiner have both delivered to me the Contents of their Vaults which have been Weighed and returned to

RG104 Entry 11

them. As soon as the allowance for Wastage has been settled the accounts can be closed for the quarter –

I am Gen.l Yours truely
Signed H.B. Cammack
Lieut.
U.S. Br. Mint
Jan.y 11. 1840

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 15, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, by this mail, to your address, a box containing dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans, — and to request that you will ~~remove the outside envelope~~ forward it under your frank, as directed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

R. M. P.

Dr.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

P. S. My annual report is delayed in consequence of my not having yet received the last returns from Charlotte & New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
January 18. 1840.

Sir

The box containing dies for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans transmitted by you has been received and forwarded as requested.

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

R. M. Patterson.
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of U. S.
Jan. 15. 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to send ~~inclosed to you address~~, by the present mail, a second box of dies, directed to the Supt. N. Orleans Br. Mint, and ~~have~~ and to request that it may be forwarded under your frank.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans January 19th 1840

Dear Patterson
Director Mint
Philadelphia

Sir When I last saw you in Philadelphia I understood you to say that there was nothing in my testimony that I could give offence that I might return to New Orleans with perfect safety & that even if Mr Tyler was prejudiced against me it was not he but Mr Kennedy who had the right to appoint Workman Your Conversation induced me to believe that I should experience no difficulty in being reemployed on my arrival, Mr Tyler said he had no use for my services I applied to Mr Kennedy who put me off for some time and then told me that he had received a letter from you altogether unfavorable to my application for reemployment stating that you had not given me any encouragement but rather the Contrary, Now Sir I must say that I think it a very hard Case that Dennis, Harmstead, Moore, & myself who remained during the greater part of the Summer, and had the Yellow fever while in the Service of the united States, should be without any cause turned off We had escaped the fever had become acclimated & had gained much experience in the

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Saint D'Ware requested by the late
Superintendent to return to our posts I think
this a poor encouragement for Workmen to
leave the north & risk the risk of their lives
and leaving their families Destitute by being
employed on the mint at New Orleans I have
Waited for some time to Write on this Subject
but my feelings have at last Compelled me
to Do it

I am very respectfully
your Obdt Servt
Wm D. Johnson

Treasury Department
January 26. 1870.

Sir

The Box of dies received this morning has been forwarded to the Supt. Br. Mint at N. Orleans in compliance with your request.

Very Respectfully

Asst Secretary
Sec. of the Treas.

R. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 21. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith, a third box of dies for New Orleans Br. Mint, which I beg you to forward as before under your frank.

R. M. P.

Dr.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasy.

RG104 Entry 11

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans January 21 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of 15th instant with a statement of your account. There is still a difference of $525. between yr account and the books of this office, being the amt of two drafts drawn by the late Superintendent and not credited in the books, about which I have had no intercourse. -

The accounts for Contingent & ordinary expenses for 4 qr 1839 are closed & will be forwarded in a day or two. The bullion accounts will be ready in a few days.

I am very sincerely & truly
Yours
H.B. Cammack
Treasurer

To
Dr R. M. Patterson
Director
U.S. Mint.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Jan. 22. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to request, that you will forward to New Orleans, under your frank, the accompanying box of dies, for the Branch Mint at that place.

R. M. N. P.
D.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans January 23d 1840

Sir,

I forwarded to you by the mail of the 21st instant under cover to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Assay Coin received from deliveries made at this Mint, during the last month and of which the following is a summary:

11 Dimes Taken from a delivery of 10.000 Dimes
Made 5 Dec. 1839 ——— $1.00
4 ½ Dollars, Taken from a delivery of 16.00
Half Dollars made 30 Dec. 1839 ——— 2.00
1 ½ Eagles, Taken from a delivery of 9346
½ Eagles made 30 Dec. 1839 ——— 3.50
$5.50

I have the enclose a copy of a letter, received by mail a few days ago from the Treasurer. It shows what we have done since the commencement of operations. The allowance of for Wastage, of which he speaks, has been settled. The accounts for the last quarter are closed, and they will be without delay forwarded to the Treasury Department.

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I wish to remain to you at the same time an abstract thereof.

In reference to the Letter sent to Mr Rufus Tyler in November 1838, you will find, upon inspection of a letter, written at that time, by that gentleman to Mr Marshall, which I presume he has kept, and a copy of which I have seen, that it was not ordered for the Institution, but, I think, for the New Orleans and Nashville Rail Road Co. That which was purchased for the Mint in Sept. 1838 has been paid for, and Mr Marshall's Receipt for the Money (£135.) has been found among the papers of the late Comr, by his Brother, and placed in my hands.

I have been regretted by the Letter and Refusal to get you to send out for the use of the Department one Set of Fine Weights, troy and domestic, from 500 to 001 etc. of an ounce together with the balance, also 50 cards of Watch Keys. Our dies for the year have not yet arrived. We are expecting them with the utmost anxiety. As also the Officers of the Mint appear anxious to understand their

Duties, I think that we should get along to the entire Satisfaction both of the Government and the Public.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
R. Maskell
Ch

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

Treasury Department
January 23 1870

Sir,

The box of dies referred to in yours of the 21st. has been received and forwarded to the Superintendant of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans

Very Respectfully

Asst. Secretary
Sec. of the Treas'y.

W. W. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philad.a

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
January 25. 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of forms of the 22nd. inst. of the box of dies referred to, which will be forwarded to N. Orleans.

As objections are made at the Post Offices, to the transportation of such heavy packages by mail, I would suggest the expediency of having the sets divided hereafter, and sent by different Mails.

Very Respectfully

Asst. Secretary
Sec. of the Treasury

T. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Jan 20th, 1840.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 27th ult., with the accompanying statement of the expenditures by Alex. Forstall and Alex. Pannock, out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at New Orleans. In your letter you ask me to inform you "whether the estimates, which have cost any large sums, were built under my direction or with my sanction, and if not, by what direction they were erected, and for what they consist." You also mention "that some heavy charges for furniture, marble mantels, &c.," and ask "whether these expenditures were authorized by me, and whether all or how many stories of the Mint were in the buildings."

To your several inquiries, I have now the honor to present the following answers.

The plans for the Mint Building at New Orleans were prepared under the direction of my predecessor in office, and, having received the approbation of the Department, their execution was committed to Martin Gordon Esq., as Commissioner for this purpose. In December 1835, he made a visit to Philadelphia, and on the 17th of that month, I wrote to you a letter, of which the following paragraph is an extract.

"Gen. Gordon, of New Orleans, is now with me. We have carefully studied the appropriation of the apartments in the Branch Mint, now

RG104 Entry 11

buildings, and find, that besides accommodating all the machinery and operations of the Mint, residences may be found for at least three of the Officers, and this without extending the building, or increasing the cost. Gen. Gordon will shew you the plans now made, and submit them for your approbation."

You will observe then, first, that no new building or out building was proposed; secondly, that no increase of cost was contemplated by it; and, thirdly, that your approbation was to be obtained by the Commissioners.

In a letter from Gen. Gordon, of Dec. 27, 1836, after stating the deficiency in efficiency of the appropriations for completing the Mint buildings, he says: "The first wing finished, or nearly so, will be sufficient to go on with the operations of the Mint upon a confined scale. I apprehend, however, that but a temporary accommodation can be enjoyed by the Officers of the Mint, till the other wing is finished, which will make the establishment complete, according to the plan approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. It must, however, be observed, that the appropriation was confined, as regards the expenditures, to the appropriations made by Congress." In a subsequent part of the same letter, he says, "When the whole edifice is completed, it will be conveniently calculated for the functions of the Mint, and the accommodation of all its officers with the exception of the superintendent."

The officers who now reside in the building of the Mint are the Coiner, and the Melter & Refiner; and I deem their residence there of great importance to the public interests, by ensuring their constant presence at the place of their business, and by the general security as well as efficiency thereby afforded.

I know nothing of the erection of out houses, nor have any been erected under my direction or with my sanction, - the erection of buildings not having been placed under my control. It is evident, however, that some out buildings must have been necessary; though I cannot conceive that they should have been of a costly character, and I am much surprised at the amount of the bills for this purpose.

On the subject of the furniture purchased for the Mint, I get my first information from the statement of which you have sent to me. Book-cases, tables, desks, chairs, are certainly necessary, as were also marble and grate. The true question is whether the expenditure, under these heads, was made with a due regard to economy. Monthly returns of entry have been made into the accounts, but as they are always accompanied with other entries in the statement, and as some of these, - such as railing, tube, casting, - may have been very costly, it is difficult to judge of the degree of extravagance in this article.

My letter of the 1st of this month contains the

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My letter of the 20th gives some account of my expenditures on account of the New Orleans Mint; as to all others, I am, as you must perceive, very imperfectly informed. It is certain that expenses at New Orleans cannot be judged by the tariff of charges in the northern parts of the United States.

R. M. P.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury

(1) Sec. of Treasury
June 30. 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans January 31. 1840

Sir,

I rec'd by the mail of yesterday one Set of dies, and One Set of 5 cent dies for the year 1840, and was much disappointed, at not getting those of all the other denominations, at the same time. We have a great quantity of Bullion on hand, and have Certificates out to a large amount, which we are extremely anxious to pay off at an early day. I have, since the 1st of the month, under the advice of the District Attorney rather than suspend operations, with the expenses of the Government running on, kept the Coiner at work with such of the old dies, as were fit for use, but great care has been necessary in order to make them last as long as possible, and this has of course produced delay. I beg that you will lose no time in sending out the other dies.

Respectfully Your Obt Servt

J. M. Mahony
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
January 31. 1840

Sir

I transmit to your address by this mail a package of Coins for assay - received this morning from the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

D. R. W. Patterson
Philad.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U.S.
Feb. 3d, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult., and of the coins for the annual assay sent therewith from the Mint at New Orleans.

I have received, this morning, from the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint, a letter of the 21st of January, but I am still without the information for which my annual report was to have delayed. From the endorsements on the assay pieces sent, it would appear that the coinage, since the resumption of work at that Mint, has been

In quarter eagles,	$ 23,490.
In half dollars,	8,000
In dimes,	1,000
Total —	$ 32,490

I am more curious, however, to know the amount of their deposits.

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th inst., with the Certificate of Addition-al Commissions for the annual assay. Messrs Ch. Biddle and Dr. Bache accept their appointments. The letter to Alex. Dallas has been forwarded to Pittsburg, where he is at present.

Sec. of Treasury.

R. M. P. J.

RG104 Entry 11

Feb 6th 1840

U.S. Branch Mint New Orleans

To

Dr R.M. Patterson

Director Mint

Dear Sir

I have received from our Superintendent two pair of Half dollar dies and some of smaller denomination

I have to request that you will make some allowance for my want of experience in tempering the dies, and remind you of their liability to crack in hardening &c. I hope therefore you will send me a sufficient number to prevent any delay for want of them. And in a short time I will inform you of my success in using them. I would like you to state to me the number of coins that each pair should stamp when properly tempered.

As you have requested me to write you on all matters connected with the Mint, I would mention

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that all think we are laboring under much inconvenience for want of ~~your~~ instructions from you, in relation to the duties of the Clerical Officers, and Rules of the Mint generally.

I beg you will mention particularly, if the number of hours required of the workmen per day, including the time of taking their dinners, which you know is always done in the Mint and requires but a few minutes, and whether or not, it is customary to allow them pay for time worked on the regular hours when it is necessarily required of them (excepting the Foreman who comes upon the others to gain steam &c).

I have received through the Dep.t your instructions in regard to the Dies of Coins, and the only difficulty I foresee, is in procuring the Presses ready.

I expect to have the Quarter dollar Press in operation about the middle of March.

Very Respectfully
Your Humble Servant
Miles B. Taylor
Coiner

R. M. Patterson
Director

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U.S.
Feb 9 1840

Sir,

I have this day transmitted to the President a supplementary statement of the operations of the ~~Assay office of the~~ New Orleans Mint for the last year, of which I send you a copy enclosed.

R. M. P
Dr

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Feb. 7. 1840.

Gentlemen,

I will thank you to have prepared & shipped, as soon as practicable, to the U.S. Branch Mint at New Orleans, fifty carboys of Nitric Acid.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
per Ds. S. Dunning,
Assistant Clerk.

To
Messrs. John Farr & Co.,
Manuf. Chemists.
Coates' Street
Phil.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
February 8th 1840

Sir,

Since my last letter to you announcing that one box had come to hand containing one pair of dies, and one pair of 5c dies, we have rec'd three others, the first Bag containing altogether eight pair of dies for the year 1840 - viz -

2 pr 5c dies
2 do 1/2 dimes
2 do 1/2 dollars
1 do 1/4 dollars
1 do 1c Eagles -

They are now being adjusted &c in accordance with your instructions -

I have found your letter of the 4th June 1839, to which you refer for the manner in which the old dies are to be cancelled, and will in a short time send you the required report in relation thereto.

Mr. Sidell has presented his bill. His charge is One thousand dollars, and as I informed you some time since, he looks to our Branch for payment. I submit this charge for your

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approval, and would like to hear from you on the
relation to it, as soon as convenient –
We do not find, either in the law, or in any of
the letters & instructions from you and information
relative to the distribution of the Coast Work=
= to be allowed to the Mint. One of them, we
know, relays to the Asst Department but of
the remaining thirteen, I wish you to decide,
as soon as possible, whether the Comes is
entitled to 15, & the Shetler and Reymer
to 5.
We have not yet rec'd a copy of your instruction
dated May 25. 1838 –

Respectfully yours
&c &c.

J. R. Kennedy
Sup't

R. M. Patterson Esq^r
Director U. S. Mint, Phila

RG104 Entry 11

Western Gulf Blockading Squad
New Orleans 11 February 1863

Dear Sir,

Want of time and domestic misfortune have prevented me from writing to you at an earlier day. I arrived home from Texas on the 5th Dec. and immediately entered upon the duties of my office as Paymr and Referee. I was not aware of my appointment until three or four days before my arrival.

For the purpose of exploring the rich mineral country near the San Saba, and of making botanical collections in those previously unexplored regions, I joined a company of Indian rangers, and was six weeks in the wilds beyond the frontier settlements. During my travels I collected specimens, and on the 21st minutely described between 100 & 200 new species of plants. I should like to publish the same with drawings. Be good enough to ascertain whether the Am. Phil. Society would like such communications for their Journal. I should like a colored copperplate engraving of every remarkable new genus & species. I am aware it would be expensive, more so than I could care to undertake singly the drawings I have taken. The size of the

RG104 Entry 11

Journal of the Hon. Phil. Bc. suits me much better than the Small Estate of the Philosophical of Natural Science.

Since the 1st of June I have received from our Treasurer 37.193 5/16 oz of Silver Bullion containing gold, besides a pretty large amount of gold containing silver. There was but one whole & two matrasses in the separating room. Some two weeks since we received a supply and have nine separators about 10 oz lbs of Bullion. You will be written to by our Superintendent to decide whether any department is entitled to four or five men. I attend two in the separating room, and three in the melting room, as being in accordance with first assay ingots, and the least number adequate to go on simultaneously with the business of both rooms.

I shall be thankful for communication relating to Melting and refining — the results of experience — especially in reference to the best modes of recovering a small amount of silver or gold from a large amount of dirt, old pots, ashes &c &c.

In what condition should clippings be delivered from the coinage? It has occurred to me that a great waste expended and the allowance 2 per cent only on each draft; the room is an irregular; the clippings ought to be clean. The fault I have found with Mr Taylor's clippings is, that in burning off the grease, he has by a smothered combustion left a thin coating of charcoal and other miscellaneous matter sometimes. Now Mr. T and myself are good friends, and I do not wish to be understood as finding fault with him. We have neither of us the experience, to know how the matter should be.

The Treasurer has proposed to me to receive and melt into ingots, without assaying previously, the deposits of Mexican, Spanish and French silver coins. What should weight and fineness should I so receive them?

I come near forgetting one subject. Our workmen are very willing, as I am rather disposed, to make what they call over time, that is, to be paid for, from one & two to six days extra in a month. If it be a right for the benefit of our workmen and others who labor, — sanctioned by your custom in Philad. — all is right. If not, I should like your advice.

Harmony and good feeling prevail among us.

Yours respectfully
J. L. Riddell.

R. M. Patterson.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U.S.
Feb. 11/40.

Sir,

I have the honor to send to you herewith a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Commissioners at the annual assay held yesterday. You will see that the trial pieces the standards and mallets to be all within the less legal limits, and they were approved accordingly. They were indeed all perfectly satisfactory except the quality of the gold coins from the New Orleans Mint which was on the very verge of the legal limit, — being 1/5 thousandth above standard when the limit is 2 thousandths. I will call the attention of the New Orleans Assayer, Dr. Hart, to this circumstance.

R. M. P.

To/ Wm. Lewis Woodbury
Sec. of Treasy.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U.S.

Feb. 12th 1840.

Sir,

I regret to state that the information, asked for in my letter of the 17th of December, to enable me to make up my annual report to the President, was not received by me until the 6th inst., not having been sent from New Orleans until the 23d ult. Now the act law requires that my annual report be presented in the month of January, as it has always been done about the 15th. On this occasion, it was delayed to the end of the month, and was then sent incomplete, & falsified as to your Mint, with the reason of omission stated. You do not seem to have been aware of the necessity. The Secretary of the Treasury instructs me to inquire of you the reason for the delay of your statement; but I am confident it must have been caused by your not adverting to the terms of the 2d section of the Act Mint Act of 1837, (which a copy is in your hands). I will beg you, in future years, to send the information required for the Director's Annual Report, at the earliest possible day after the close of the year.

RG104 Entry 11

The Commissioners for the Annual Assay of last week meeting on the 10th inst. As to your Branch the report states that the gold pieces agreed in weight with the standard, and the silver pieces were in fineness in weight one part in 1588: that the gold pieces exceeded the standard in fineness one part and seven-eighths in a thousand, and that the silver pieces were deficient to the standard in fineness one part in 1250.

The trial thus showing the pieces to be according to law, were approved, but it is necessary to state that the result of the gold assay was not satisfactory, as it approached so close upon the limit that would have caused its rejection. Although the Law allows a variation of three thousandths, as a limit, it should be the most limit should not be more than one thousandth. The variation from standard, for the other metals, did not exceed half a thousandth. It is but justice here to say, to Dr. Hunt, to say, that the very small amount of your gold Coinage placed him at a disadvantage. Where there are a great many melts, some zinc and other base standard, and the compensation of errors will be made its appearance in the general assay of the mixed specimens.

Your letter of the 30th ult. was received this morning, acknowledging the receipt of the dies you have, by this time, received all the remainder of dies, for which you shew a specific anxiety. They were forwarded to you as follows:

1 pair	dimes	
1 "	half dimes	15th Jan — acknowledged.
1 "	dimes	
1 "	half dimes	18th "
1 "	half dollars	
1 "	half eagle	21st "
1 "	half dollars	
1 "	quarter dollars	22d "

Your order for weights, of the 22d Jan., has been attended to.

You ask, in the same letter, for a balance and set of weights for the Melting and Refining. Hope that this refined and trouble may not be deemed necessary. The balance would have to be procured from Paris, for I know of no one here who could make it, except after observation, and he is fully engaged at the Mint. The weights would have to be made by other Hands, at Birmingham, and would probably cause a delay of many months. Our Melter and Refiner has always made use of the

RG104 Entry 11

Treasurer's balance, and I hope that this course may not be found inconvenient to you.

P. M. P.

To/ Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

It may be proper to mention that when your reserved coins are examined by the Commissioners, they are found to correspond to your lists.

Allow me to ask your attention to my instructions of the [illegible] with regard to the number of pieces to be reserved at each delivery. We are under the impression that your gold coins are not sufficiently representative. Thus we last call for five from the last delivery.

Allow me also to ask your attention to my instructions of Feb. 14 & Oct. 13. 1838, with regard to the ~~quarterly~~ monthly reports of the operations of your Mint.

RG104 Entry 11

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Treasurer's Office 12th Feby. 1840

Sir

I beg to enquire from you what is the custom of the Mint in Philadelphia in receiving deposites of Coins in large sums, such as Mexican & Spanish Dollars, and Small five & ten pieces - Are not these sometimes taken at a Standard, which experience has proved to be an average one, without melting for assay - If I mistake not I was told at the Mint last Summer, that Mexican Coins are received there at 897 - In such case what sort of Certificate is the Treasurer to receive from the Assayer? -

I beg also to enquire how far I have the right to change American Coins, after all the outstanding Certificates are paid, (which I hope will be done within this month) for the purpose of having the latter recoined by the Mint - I make this enquiry because this Mint will soon use up all the Bullion on hand, and will require a further supply to which to work - Any quantity of foreign Coins can be obtained by exchanging for them our own, but until we can give some assurance of the profit of such operations, Banks & individuals will not take the risk by depositing largely -

A large amount of foreign Coins are in the

Vaults of the Banks, which they would be glad to convert into American Coins, of to be done without loss to them. Most of the deposits now made are in small sums, by parties who want half Dimes. Application has been made by depositors for half Dimes to be sent to the Havana, there are most wanted here and pass generally for 6¼ cents, while Dimes on our Markets will not pass for more.

We are very much in want of one or two additional sets of Weights, there is now but one set in the Mint, which is continually in motion between the Weighmasters, Melter & Refiner and Coiner; all three, being compelled to use this one set.

I am very truly & faithfully
Yours
A. B. Cammack
Treasurer

R. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 19. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Marshall has just called on me, and states that he has sent to New Orleans, in all, four lathes, viz:

1 of 7 inches centre, at $ 375.—
1 of 14 " " " 770.—
2 of 5 " " " 135.— each.

Of these, the first two were for the Mint at New Orleans, and have been shipped for long, (the duplicate receipts being now before me,) and are, I presume, the only lathes now at your Mint.

The two small lathes, as Mr. Marshall states, were sent to your late brother in obedience to his orders ~~contained in a~~ of ~~March 14th and Nov 24th 1838~~.

The first was sent in April, 1838, having been ordered ~~by your brother~~ in a letter ~~(the date now before me)~~ dated March 1. 1838, and was paid for by your brother in Sept. 1838, when ~~your brother~~ he was in Phila.— The last was sent in Jan. 1839, as ordered in a letter dated Nov. 24. 1838, subsequent to the date of Mr. Marshall's receipt found among your brothers papers, and is the one for which Mr. Marshall now claims payment. ~~From the~~ letters above referred to, which I have seen, I feel satisfied that neither of the two small lathes was intended for your Mint, but that they were ordered by your brother for some other establishments.

RG104 Entry 11

this you can readily determine; and I will thank you to inform me how it is, and to state for the information of Mr. Marshall, what was done with the letter last sent, & to whom he must look for payment.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., and will reply to inquiries in a few days.

Yr. Ob. Svt.

D.

To
Philo B. Hyland, Esq.
Comm. Pr. Mint.
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 20. 1840.

Sir,

I send you, herewith, a copy of my letter to Mr. Bradford of May 25. 1838, referred to in my Circular No. 9. 1838, containing full instructions for the course of Mint business, and ~~referred to in my letter to you of Sept 9th, 1839~~. I had also sent ~~at the time when~~ I have not deemed it necessary to send to you the forms of Journal & Ledger and the abstracts, to which it refers; ~~as they originally~~ but should this be desired by you Treasurer, they will be prepared & forwarded.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
R. M. Patterson
Director

To
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Cashr. U.S. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Feb. 20. '40.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending herewith a package containing instructions & forms for the Supt. of the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to whom it is addressed, - to be forwarded under your frank.

Respectfully
R. M. Patterson
Director

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
February 21. 1840.

Sir,

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of Coinage at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans since the newly appointed officers entered upon their duties.

I would thank you to make the necessary enquiries and to report to this Department whether, in your opinion, a satisfactory amount has been coined at that Branch since the appointment of the new officers, and if not what has been the cause of the deficiency. Perhaps since the arrival of Genl. all the previous delay has been remedied. Very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Philada.

RG104 Entry 11

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans February 21. 1840

Sir

The following dies, dated 1839 have been defaced in my presence by the Coiner, by heating them and putting a cross on their face.

Half dollars	3 pairs	and one tail die	7
Dimes	4	1	9
Half dimes	4	3	10
quarter eagles	1		2
			28.

Reduced
1 half dollar, tail
1 dime — tail
1 pr quarter eagles

These last will not be used without your approbation.

I would respectfully request you to keep us well supplied with dies of all the denominations. This is the more necessary now, as we have not yet had sufficient use experience to have arrived at any great accuracy in hardening.

I am desired by our Melter and Refiner to ask you whether the pickling and annealing by the Coiner previous to weighing, must be adopted as an instruction, and if so whether the clippings should not likewise be pickled and cleaned. Let us beg you to lose no time in sending out the Medal ordered a few days since.

respectfully your obed. Servt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

Jas. L.

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 22d, 1840

Sir,

I have received from our Treasurer, the sum of $61.10, which I have placed to your credit in my account under date of Feb. 12th, as follows:

By 3.55 oz. Stand.d silver, and 0.227 oz. Stand.d gold, being the weight of Assay slips, sent to this Mint, for Assay, in the year 1839, from New Orleans Br. Mint. Value $8.35

By 25.99 oz. Stand.d silver, and 1.309 oz. Stand.d Gold, and sent to this Mint being the coins returned at N.O. Br. Mint in 1839, for the annual Assay. Value — 52.75

Total — $61.10

In the last item is included the coins sent from your Mint on the 8th Dec.r 39 in 21 bbls., and also from a delivery of Jan.y 10, 1839, of half dimes, received Feb.y 8th with the Assay coins of 1838, on the 11th Feb. 1839.

In your letter to me of Dec.r 21st ult., you state that two drafts drawn by Mr. Bradford (and hard here) amounting to $525.7 are not credited in the books of your office. I conclude, from an examination of my duplicate Vouchers, that these are the drafts, both dated Aug. 5, 1839, which constitute Nos. 448 & 449 in my account rendered Nov. 4th 1839, & have not yet been paid, and which I speak for themselves, so far as my account is concerned. ~~Is the money in my hands from a part of your Ordinary funds~~ The money in my hands is a part of your Ordinary funds.

RG104 Entry 11

If your Jurisdiction allowed these drafts upon it, he ought to be able to show why.

R. W. P.

To
N. C. Cammack, Esq.,
Treasurer Br. Bank,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
Feb 23d 1840

Sir,

Your of the 12th inst I have the honor to receive. I regret exceedingly the delay which occurred in transmitting to you the information asked for in your letter of the 17th December last, and the only apology I can offer is, that that section of the law granting the funds for your annual report has entirely escaped my recollection. In your letter above referred to, you ask of together with the statement of our operations for the year, other information or suggestions which I may deem important for your annual report to the President. Without intending in the slightest degree, to make you a participant in my fault, it is unfortunate for me, that in that letter no mention was made of the time limited for the presentation of that report. In my forgetfulness of the law itself, any intimation whatever from you, calculated to recall it to my mind, would have prevented our neglect, the thought of which gives me much pain and of which I trust there shall be no recurrence - I hope you will also take into consideration that we

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have all been but a short time in office, are yet very imperfect, and without any thing like regularity in instruction, those of the 25. May 1838 of which you promised us a copy, not having yet been received. With regard to the monthly reports of the operations of our Mint you call my attention to your instruction of the 14th of Jan 15th Oct 1838. I have read those Books, and am now ignorant, of the time within which those reports must be made out by the Treasurer to be transmitted to you, but take it that the sending them at all is a matter of instruction. Many of the documents belonging to this Institution were either mislaid during the late investigation, or suspended, & pendente lite the record of the proceedings, and the fact has not been noticed before, because we presume that the instructions of the 25th May 1838 which we have been expecting for some time will contain all the information we shall require.

I will however observe that on the 1st. day of every month a statement be made out of the operations of the month preceding to be transmitted to you without delay.

The following is an extract from a report received from the Treasurer.

"I have the pleasure of transmitting you, the following statement of the operations of the Mint for the Month of January 1840.

The deposites of Silver Bullion amount to 3940.65 gross weight - Standard 3901.86 oz - Value $ 4539.71

The deposites of Gold Bullion amount to 17.43 gross weight, Standard 12.25 oz. Value $ 237.96

I have delivered to the Melter & Refiner in Silver Bullion Standard Weight 89.046.55 oz and have rec'd from him in Ingots 37.105.45 oz and have also delivered him in Gold Clippings and Bullion 4.857.436 oz.

To the Coiner I have delivered in Silver Ingots &c 65.813.06 ounces, and received from him in Clippings 15.416.40 oz, and in Coins 16.757.80 oz - I also delivered him one ounce in gold Bullion -

The Coins received were as follows

1000	13.000	130.000 dimes
500	5.000	110.000 5p dimes
100	1.000	2.000 5p dollars
19	119	

I have paid Certificates and warrants of Silver deposits amounting to $ 36.260.34 and of gold $ 23.54.27

With regard to the delay which is the subject of the first part of the letter, let me beg you to place it before the Secretary of the Treasury in a light as little unfavorable as possible -

5.500 / 20 / 11.000 / 55.000

very respectfully
Yr. Ob't Serv't
J. R. Snowden
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.re
Director of the Mint of
the U. S
Philada

Mint U. S.
Feb. 24/44.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in which you state that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and ask whether, in my opinion, this complaint has a reasonable foundation.

In reply I have to mention, first, that the Coiner, Mr. Sybor, did not enter upon his office on the 17th of November, and found much immediately commenced gave his attention to the remaking and selection of workmen, and the repairs and arrangement of the machinery of his department, but could not happily commence coining until the Melter and Refiner, Dr. Riddell, should enter upon the discharge of his duties. Now, in consequence of the absence of this gentleman, on a botanical and geological tour in the wilds of Texas, he did not even hear of his appointment until the beginning of December, and did not give his official bonds until the 9th of that month. Under these

circumstances, the coinage, up to the end of the year, of 75,396 pieces of coin, amounting to $33,490, ought not, I think, to give rise to any dissatisfaction.

I am not informed of the amount of coinage at the Philadelphia Mint since the Commencement of the year, but my last letters from that Mint are written in a tone of confidence, and give me the assurance, on which I count much for the success of the establishment, that harmony and good feeling prevail among the officers.

Yours &c.

P. M. P.

Hon. Louis McLane,
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Feb 25. 1840

Sir,

We perceive that the instructions of Feb. 14 and Oct. 13 1840. with regard to the monthly operations of this Mint, refer'd to in your letter of the 12th inst. and which in my last communication to you, I observed that I had not seen, are contained in two letters of those dates from you to Mr Bradford. There is one document however mentioned in that of the 13th Oct. which we have not been able to find, and that is, the Statement containing the item omitted in former reports, and also to serve as a form, &c, embracing all desirable Reports of bullion in regard to Deposites and Coinage? If you will be so kind as to send us another copy of that Statement, its requisitions shall be strictly complied with.

I yesterday saw a letter from Mr. Nicholas, one of our Senators, in which he says that it appears to be the wish of those feeling an interest in the affairs of our Mint, that the Superintendent should reside on the premises - He also mentions the fact of your report to the President being incomplete, for the want of our Statement in with regard to the residence, I have on a

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communication to him, quoted two passages of your letter to me of the 3d December 1839, which, together with one on the same subject from Mr Commander containing a corroborating report sought from Mr Shiddell will, I think, satisfy him of the propriety of preserving the Treasurer, as a resident officer, to the Superintendent.

In relation to the cause of the incomplete state of your report, I have spoken to him with the same frankness that I did to you adding, that as this was the first month of, and, as I conceived that I had not at least passed been a sufficient length of time in my present office, to be fairly presumed to have a thorough acquaintance with all its details, I hoped the omission would be overlooked.

Let me again request your good offices with the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully
Your obed. Servant
Jon Kennedy

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Phila.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 2nd 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose a Statement of our operations for the last month - In a communication to me from Mr Camman ask, he says -

"During the past month there were 70 deposites of silver -
"The staff of the Mint now consists of

"In silver deposites to ——— $85.134.75
"Gold deposites ——— 22.169.67
107.304.42

"I have in hand
"Silver Coin ——— $34.589.90
"Gold Coin ——— 15.703.28
50.293.18

Bal.ce due - $57.011.24

"We are out as near out of debt as $ 2nd anticipated
"but the recent deposites have been larger than I expected

I have been requested by the Melter & Refiner to say to you that the following articles are wanted in his department.

50 Black lead Pots - Size No. - 60
30 — do — do — do — do — No. - 80
20 — do — do Lids Diameter — 10 Inches
20 — do — do — do — do ——— 8 —
20 — do — do — do — do ——— 7 - 80

It best Cakeside stand is in need of an "apparatus for agitating" in the Humid Assay such as is used in Phila. I think without doubt and to save the expense of Spring &c.

Will you be good enough to inform me whether you do not think it would be advisable to put a Stop to the extra pay which issues every month upon the roll and to require that in future all the Work necessary in the different departments should be done within the regular hours -

Very respectfully
Your Obed.t Servant
Wm Kennedy
Sup.t

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director &c
Phila

Copy

Dr. The United States for the Building & Machinery of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons, from 1st January to the 31st March 1840, inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent of the Marginal date and numbers, viz;

1840		Warrant				No of Days	Dolls	cts
Jany	25	6	J. John Ferguson	for Carpenters work &c		1	166	50
Feby	5	12	Stowell & Rankin	" 1 Mantle Piece Grate (extra allowance)		2	142	37
	"	13	P. J. McCabe	" making coal &c		3	148	—
	13	24	John Munroe	" repairing 9 dower pots		4	107	25
	"	25	James Platt	" repairing Hydraulic &c		5	99	—
March	7	43	John Munroe	" repairing 9 dower pots		6	97	50
	"	44	James Platt	" do do do		7	90	—
	9	47	John B. Walsh	" bill of Soldering &c		8	129	50
							$ 980	12

Branch Mint of the United States
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office
March 31st 1840

H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

March 3d 1840

Bunch Maine Md. New Orleans

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 10th ult. came to hand yesterday. I thought the information given to Mr Kennedy in regard to Mr Chamberlain's letter was sufficient, or I should have written before this. — These Cutlers were ordered for this mint, and paid for — the former by was ordered on the 30th Nov 1838. in words following —

"I have been requested to procure the Cutler you made for the Fr. Exhibition, and to have it forwarded to me immediately. I have therefore to request that you ship it to me at once, and I will remit a draft at sight for the amount, viz twenty four dollars, for which I will send you a receipt as agreed between us when I was in Philad."

This Cutler was sold by my late Brother for which he received the Money to my positive knowledge. It was also known that the Cutler had not been paid for by my late Brother. It was accordingly with the arrangement made between him and Mr Chamberlain about the twenty four dollars to be given for the Cutler

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of each Letter &c after My Letters about I was seeking an opportunity of writing Mr Marshall something decisive in regard to the estate, when he sent me a bill for the Lathe, made out against the Mint. I was so much astonished at this apparent misunderstanding, that I neglected writing him, until you wrote Mr Kennedy on the subject when I gave him the same information as given above

I then informed Mr Marshall that the Estate of Rogers & Co did is alone accountable to him for the Lathe but not at the rate charged in this bill, as is shown by the order for the same.

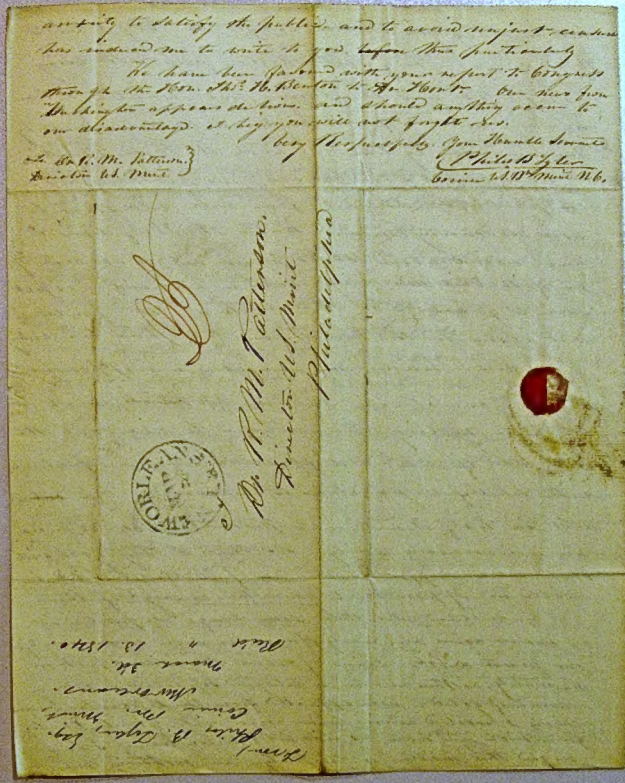
Also that I was the legal Executor of the Estate and could give him any information he requires in regard to his claim. I am sorry you have been put to so much trouble in this matter, and hope the above will give you a correct idea "how it is"

Jos Stephens Mr Evans called on me some three weeks since, and after a trip to Savannah is with me again.

Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the Bullion I could get, and at the same time to turn my attention to the perfection of the machinery &c. I have but one trouble. which is in accounts of the dies, as I could not coin any gold dollars except the Half dollars & Half dimes. The Quarter dollar pieces not being completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few Mr Taylor in the dime pieces by running it over by hand. With the Half dollar dies I have coined about 800.000 pieces, and them now but on pair left which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the Half dimes I have coined about 100.000 pieces. But on account of one of the two dies being cracked in hardening, I suspect soon to go ashore on that Lath — The Quarter is not above in the hardening. I have ben only Gold dimes. besides, my annealer is sick pensioner. Other coinage stamps, such as too thick much, or too little Milling, have tended to wear out the dies, all of which difficulties require practice with skillful practice to succeed. Our debt in Half dimes is at present = 150.000 pieces and is increasing daily. so that if by you will send us a sufficient number of Half dollar dies to enable us, if possible to pay the amount of them

I understand also that some large Gold pieces is most wanted coins are ready for us, as soon as the pay off our present debts. Which I assure they will of such immediately, as there will be no delay in Separation — a large amount of gold is now separated from the Quartz coin which I should advise being coined into Quarter Eagles for which we have no debt — Pardon me, if I have urged this matter unnecessarily as nothing but my

RG104 Entry 11



Mint U. S.

March 4/ 40.

Sir.

I find that there is on my file a letter from you of the 6th ult. which I am required to answer.

I have given instructions to have you furnished with a full supply of dies. It is impossible to answer, with any precision, what is the number of coins that may be struck with one pair of dies. Perhaps 200,000 may be given as a pair medium. We have struck 400,000 half dimes.

In answer to your inquiry respecting regulations for the workmen, I send, directed to Mr. Kennedy, a copy of our printed regulations.

The Professor thinks that any metallic scale, such as is found in cases of mathematical instruments, will be sufficiently accurate for fixing the diameter of your dies.

R. M. P.

Dft.

To/ Philip B. Tyler, Esq.
Coin. Br. Mint, New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U.S.

March 4/ 41.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 18th ult. I envy you your wanderings in the wilds of Texas, in search of plants and minerals. In my younger days, I was very fond of such excursions, and have walked on them hundreds of miles. I should be very glad to have the result of your researches for our Philosophical Trans actions, and shall be glad to take charge of the matter for you. You are aware that all papers have to be referred to a Committee, and that the action of the Society is upon their report. I have no doubt, however, that your communication would be gladly received for our Volumes. The expense of the plates as may be required can hardly exceed that for Mr. Lea's Shells, and I do not apprehend any serious difficulty on this score; but I will make inquiry on the subject, at our meeting of next Friday, and if objections are made to the expense, I will let you know.

RG104 Entry 11

I have written, by the present mail, to Mr. Kennedy, on the subject of the distribution of the revenue between the Coins of Mobile, and the regulations to be observed in future in the delivery of ingots and clippings. I have also sent to him a copy of our printed regulations for the purchase, which will answer certain inquiries made by Mr. Tyler himself. I must refer you also to our correspondence with the Superintendent, for my views as to receiving foreign coin without delay.

R. M. P.

Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner, Branch Mint
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
March 4th 1840.

Sir,

In your letter of the 8th ult., you submit to my approval the charge made by Mr. Shiblo for the services rendered by him at the investigations held in your Mint. I have now to state, that, after giving this charge my full consideration, and taking into view the labor, time, and anxiety which the investigation cost, and the tariff of professional services understood to be established in New Orleans, I cannot pronounce Mr. Shiblo's charge of one thousand dollars unreasonable, and that I think you would be justified in paying it, when you shall be in funds for that purpose to enable you to do so.

It is the judgment of our officers that of the twenty machines allotted to your Mint, one should be for the Assayer, five for the Melter & Refiner, and fourteen for the Coiner. But, in any case where such a course may be deemed proper, desirable and desirable, the men of our

department may be called upon to work for another. This is often done at our mint.

Your letter of the 21st ult. has been received this morning, with your Statement of the old dies destroyed, and of those received, in due form. — I am glad in these times to be able to furnish you with a full supply of dies.

Since the inquiries which have been made by yourself and Dr. Riddell with regard to the allowance in gold and clippings which pass between the Mint & Coinage, we have been making a number of experiments, to determine the exact just rules to be observed in these transfers, and I am glad to be able to withdraw my former instructions, and to give the following in their place, which I hope you will have observed for the future.

Gold ingots and gold clippings are always to be charged and credited before delivery, and are also then to be delivered at their true weight, without any deduction.

Silver ingots are to be stamped, if required, and rolled clippings are to be delivered at their true weight, without any deduction.

I need not tell you that this change in the regulations has no effect upon the total account of mintage, but only changes the relative mintage of the Mint & Coinage, and it does so to the advantage of the former, inasmuch as the delivery of ingots delivered is more than double that of the clippings returned. We are convinced that the deductions heretofore allowed have done injustice to the account of the Mint, and have diminished factitiously the apparent mintage of the Coinage. A very singular proof of this was presented by the circumstance that for settling with the Coinage account, for the past year, we were found to have not only no mintage, but an excess of silver to refund over.

As the legal allowance for mintage is nothing more than a

As the Coinage & Mint have really no allowance for mintage, but only a limit established by law without

within which this package must be confined, and as this limit is so ample that it is impossible it should be much exceeded in the event of robbery or of gross carelessness, the arrangement now made does not affect the pecuniary interests of either of the officers, but only seems to divide the total charge of package more equally and more justly between them.

Inquiry is made by your Secretary and others as to propriety of melting Mexican dollars and French five-franc pieces into ingots without previous assay. I answer, firstly, that this is a question which immediately concerns the Assayer, whose duty it is to determine the value of the deposits, and he must be satisfied of the grounds of his calculations. But I will state, for the information of all concerned, the practice at this Mint.

French five-franc pieces are received at their assay value of the true standard 900, and melted without assay until they are in ingots. We have found no inconvenience in this course.

When small quantities of Mexican dollars are brought to us, say lots

them 1000, we receive them as of the Value and 897, unless a careful inspection of them should lead the Assayer to suspect their quality, or unless he shall see a large proportion of them to be pierced Lackatoscas (Mint, (marked L,) as these are a little below 897, though probably they may run to 898.

When there is a large ordering of deposits of Mexican dollars, they are all spread over the floor, and mixed being shovelled about so as to mix them as thoroughly as possible, and the parcels of 1000 dollars each are taken out promiscuously, and melted separately into bars, which are assayed. If the assays of the two specimens agree, this is adopted as the standard of the whole. If they differ, a third melt is made.

In a letter from Mr. Cammack, of the 18th ult., which I received the day before yesterday, he makes an inquiry about "the right to change American coins," which is so obscurely expressed, that I am in doubt whether I understand it. I will, however, (same) my answer to suit

RG104 Entry 11

to the interpretations which it is susceptible. As to your first, if the receivable of our own coins be refused to, I have to state that this must be refused in any case except that of gold coins made before the Standard was changed in 1834. If it be meant that to inquire whether, (all coins subscriptions being paid off,) deposites may be paid in with coins which you have at the Mint, I answer certainly. You have a deposite at your Mint for this very purpose under the provisions of the 4th act of July 1836 regulating the deposites of public moneys. (Blank pamphlet p. 27.)

The supply of acids respecting which you make inquiry, was ordered on the day on which your application for it was received.

I will see what can be done to supply you with an additional set of weights. The set asked for by Mr. Taylor is bound up and will be sent by the first opportunity.

Yr. Obt. Servt.
R. M. P.

W. Dr. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

O. M.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
March 8. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from the Secretary of the Treasury of the package containing a copy of your letter of instructions to Mr. Bradford dated 25th May 1838 -

Let me renew the expression of my strong desire that you should keep us abundantly supplied with dies of all the denominations, including Eagles. The necessity thereof for the present arises from a want of experience on the part of our Coiner in the operation of hardening, to be expected in one so new in the discharge of his duties -

Our aids have not yet arrived -

Very respectfully
Your obedt Servt
J. M. Lemaire
Supt

Robt. Patterson Esq
Director &c

Mint of the United States,
March 10. 1840

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 23d & 25th ult. As you request, I send you herewith a form for your monthly report. It is somewhat different from the one referred to in mine of Oct. 13th, but embraces, I believe, all that is necessary. I should be glad to receive from you such reports for January and February, and for the present month also, as soon as practicable after its close. From these monthly reports, I make quarterly reports to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the operations of the Branch Mints.

I beg that the circumstance of your delay in sending your report in January may not give you any further trouble. The matter has been explained to the Department.

R. M. P.

Geo. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Dahlonega
Geo.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of January, 1840.

Deposites.

Kind of Deposites.	Gross Weight after melting.		Standard Weight.		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total value	
	Ounces.	dec.	Ounces.	dec.	Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.
Gold:										
U.S. Bullion, - Say	303	00	318	848	5,932	03	5,932	03		
Foreign Bullion "	299	35	189	146	3,518	99	3,512	48		
Foreign Coins "	216	55	214	320	3,917	34	3,936	89		
U.S. Coins (Old Standard) "	44	38	45	070	838	51	838	51		
									14,276	27
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion, Say	2,467	68	2,645	36	3,077	81	3,070	27		
Foreign Coins, "	10,947	31	10,887	03	12,668	54	12,668	54		
									15,746	35
					Total deposites				30,022	22

Coinage.

Denominations.	Number of Pieces.	Value.		Total Value.	
		Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.
Gold:					
~~Eagles~~					
Half-eagles, Say	1,420	7,100	00		
Quarter-eagles "	9,396	23,490	00		
				30,590	00
Silver:					
Half-dollars, Say	100,000	50,000	00		
Quarter-dollars, "	48,000	12,000	00		
Dimes "	50,000	5,000	00		
Half-dimes "	40,000	2,000	00		
				69,000	00
		Total Coinage		99,590	00

Sent to N.W. Orleans Br. Mint, March 10. 1840, as a form for monthly reports.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the operations of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans, for the Month of February 1840

The deposits of Silver Bullion amount to 30.933. $\frac{4}{100}$ oz. gross Weight Standard 30.858 $\frac{22}{100}$ oz. Value $35.556.87.
Without including eight deposits which were not assayed in time to be assayed this month, but will be accounted for in a day or two.

The deposits of Gold Bullion amount to 207. $\frac{220}{1000}$ oz. gross Weight Standard 186. $\frac{470}{1000}$ oz. Value $3.469.20
Without including one deposit not received in time to be assayed this month, but will be accounted for as above.

The amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Melter & Refiner, 32.060. $\frac{72}{100}$ oz. gross Weight, Stand.d 31.676. $\frac{52}{100}$ oz. and in Silver Clippings 21.553. $\frac{24}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

The amount of Silver Bullion received from the Melter & Refiner, in Ingots 67.762. $\frac{20}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Melter & Refiner, 207. $\frac{220}{1000}$ oz. gross, Stand. 186. $\frac{470}{1000}$ oz. and in Gold Clippings 899. $\frac{550}{1000}$. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion received from the Melter & Refiner, in Ingots 3.457. $\frac{770}{1000}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Silver Bullion delivered to the Coiner in Ingots 101.401. $\frac{88}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight; and received from him in Silver Clippings 20.553 $\frac{24}{100}$ oz. Stand. Weight.

Amount of Gold Bullion delivered to the Coiner

RG104 Entry 11

in Ingots 3457. 220/1000 g. Stand. Weight, and received from
him in Gold Clippings 899 175/1000 g. Stand. Weight.

The Coins received were as follows: 72000 Half
Dollars, and 16000 half Dimes weighing Stand. 33.773. 43/100 ths
Value $ 36.300.00
And 3000 half Eagles, 106. 512/1000 g. M. W. Value 15.000.00
$ 51.300.00

The eight Silver deposits which have to be accounted for in a subsequent letter, amount to 1759. 72/100 g. gross Weight — and the deposits of Gold Bullion, 8 deposits, 15. 120/1000 g. gross Weight.

New Orleans March 1. 1840
Signed. H C Cammack
Treas

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
March 17. 40

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies directed on the inner envelopes to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Neworleans, to be forwarded under your frank.

R. M. P.

To
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
March 17, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing

1 pair of dime, ~~dies~~,
1 " " half-dime, " "
1 " " quarter-eagle dies.

I shall send in the same way, by to-morrow's mail, 1 pair half-dollar dies, and on the day after 1 pair quarter-dollar dies.

R. M. P.

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New-Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint N. O.
March 18. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you by the present mail, a round box of dies directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the N. O. Mint, to be forwarded, as heretofore, under your frank. A third box will be sent by to morrows mail.

W. M. P.

(Col)
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
March 18. 1840.

Sir

I duly received your communication of the 22d. ult. in relation to the alleged defalcation on the Coinage at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans and hope that your expectations as to the fortunate success of that establishment may not be disappointed.

Permit me to ask, however, whether sufficient time has elapsed to enable you to judge of the qualifications and general fitness of the Coiner of that Branch for the situation he holds? If not, I will thank you to institute such enquiries as you may deem proper and necessary to enable you to form an opinion on that point and to report the result to the Department

Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Sc

Is he at? empt?

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
March 20. 1840.

Sir,

The box of Coin referred to in your letter of the 18th has been received and forwarded to the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

I transmit by this mail to your address a Letter from the Als. Consulate at Hong Kong and the coins therein referred to.

Very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

Secy of the Treasury

Dr. R M. Patterson
Philada

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
March 21 / 40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th, on the subject of the dies for the New Orleans Mint.

~~I take the liberty~~ I beg to state that the amount the first dies for 1840 were sent to that Mint early in January, and received there in that month, and that it has been a custom, from the origin of the Mint, to use the dies of the preceding year, until the new ones are prepared. There is, however, no difficulty in keeping on the supply in time to prevent this necessity, and I will have it attended to in future.

R. M. P.
Dallas

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

The third type of dies for the Branch Mint at New Orleans was received this morning and has been forwarded.

Very Respy.

Asst. Secy of the Treasury

D. R. W. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
March 21. 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith bills of lading for articles shipped on the 14th & 20th inst., for the use of your Mint. You will notice that there was some dispute ~~about~~ as to the number of Carboys of acid shipped: please inform me how many you have come to hand. A further supply will be sent soon.

The balance is for the use of your Coinage ~~in the adopted~~ The weights accompanying have all been adjusted here.

Very respy,

Yr

R. M. P., Director
per Geo. T. Dunning,
Director's Clerk.

To
Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. U. S. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U.S.

March 21/40

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. on the subject of the operations in the New Orleans Branch Mint, and particularly respecting the qualifications of the Coiner. My last official letter from this office is of the 3d inst. In it I make the following remarks.

"Our Mint is going on more prosperously than at any previous time. I am happy to state that I have been enabled to coin all the bullion [meaning silver of course] I could get, and at the same time to turn my attention to the repairs of the machinery &c. I have had no trouble, which is on account of the dies, as I could not use any you sent us except the half-dollars and half-dimes — the quarter-dollar punch not being completed, and the dimes not wanted. I have however coined a few half-eagles in the dimes-press. [The quarter-dollar punch is the purpose on for these coins.] With the half-dollar dies I have coined about 90,000 pieces, and have but one pair more which I fear will not stand to coin as many more. With the half-dimes, I have coined about 100,000 pieces, but on account

RG104 Entry 11

of one of the tail dies being cracked in hardening, I suspect soon to go ashore on that task. The fault is not alone in the hardening, for them then working bad silver, and, besides, my annealer is inexperienced. Other circumstances, such as too much or too little milling, have tended to wear out the dies, — all of which difficulties require patience with skilful practice to overcome. &c."

Mr. Tyler has details some of the difficulties to which his operations are exposed, and for which the ignorant or the ill-disposed will not make allowance, and yet he says that he has been enabled to coin all the metals he could get." It is true that the New Orleans Mint has done but little this year, yet you will see, from the report which I send you by the present mail, that the coinage has been almost double of the deposites in the January & February.

My opinion, [illegible] is, that if there has not yet been time to [illegible] an absolutely favorable judgment as to Mr. Tyler's qualifications, there certainly I cannot yet do any thing in his case that should lead to a contrary conclusion.

I have received from the mint made to me yesterday, by a gentleman who has been lately at the New Orleans Mint, and I was distressed to hear from him that symptoms of factional hostility were again making their appearance among the officers, or, at least, between two of them, Dr. Hurt and Mr. Tyler. Dr. Hurt is the only remaining officer of the old set, and he was always represented to me, by one party, as the instigator of the dissentions which destroyed the harmonious efficiency of the Mint in its early days. I was aware of the danger of recommending that he should be retained. Yet I did so, because he is a man of ability in his department, and because I hoped that if he was really disposed to mischief-making as the indulgence of factional animosities, the better

I sincerely hope that your letter does not indicate the existence, on the part of any officer of the New Orleans Mint, of the disposition to denounce and injure other officers, which had so baneful an influence in the former corps. Almost the same accusations were hurled at one against Mr. Philos Tyler once made against his brother, and yet his official character was fully sustained by Mr. Mitchell, upon the evidence presented to him in the investigation.

I will write to Mr. Kennedy and make inquiry as to his impressions with

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regard to Mr. Tyler's discharge of his former duties. Hopefully Mr. Kennedy will have had no communication with the old printer.

R. M. P.
D. M.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treas.

(2) Recd. of Kennedy
Nov. 9, 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

~~Amount of Coinage~~ Mint of the United States,
March 24th, 1840.

Sir,

By a letter received from the Secretary of the Treasury, I am sorry to learn that attempts have been made, I presume indirectly, to convey to his mind impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Taylor. Under such circumstances it becomes my duty to apply to you for information, and for your frank opinion.

I will ask you, then; whether you have or have not found Mr. Taylor attentive to his business in the Mint: whether he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and whether he has succeeded in doing so, to your satisfaction. I will ask you particularly to state whether ingots have been allowed to accumulate unnecessarily in his hands, or in the hands of the Treasurer: whether, from time to time, he has so coined all the ingots purchased for him; in a word, whether the Coinage has been able to keep pace with the Melting. Has it ever happened that the coining has been stopped for want of ingots?

If the Coinage is much behind the supply of ingots, how far is this to be ascribed to the demand for half dimes? If this demand stands in the way of your keeping off depositors, can it

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not be abated or at least reduced to a reasonable extent? I am told that half dimes are asked of you because they can be passed at 25 per cent. above their legitimate value in New Orleans. On the supposition, then, that this Coinage tends to keep the Mint behind-hand in debt, might it not be right to inquire whether such a result should be submitted to, for the encouragement of what is at best a shifting basis, if not an absolute fraud?

If you think that the insinuations against Mr. Sytes are unfounded, I would suggest to you the propriety of considering the subject of this Communication confidential, - as, otherwise, you must expect to see Suspicions and ill-blood excited among your officers, and the deplorable scenes which but a few months ago had nearly destroyed your institution. I most earnestly hope that the Spirit of intrigue is not again busily among you. One more investigation like the last, and your institution will have reached its end.

(Signed) R. M. Patterson
Director.

To/
Jno. M. Kennedy, Esq.,
Supt. U.S. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of February 1840

Deposites								Coinage			
Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions	Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
	Ounces	dw	Ounces	dw	Dollars	ct	Dollars	ct	Dollars ct				Dollars	ct
Gold.									Gold.					
U.S. Bullion. Dep.	11	43	7	412	152	31	152	31	Half Eagles. Dep.	3000	15.000	00		
Foreign Bullion.	41	75	22	595	426	00	426	00						
Foreign Coins.	170	04	171	908	3198	23	3198	23						
							3.776	54					15.000	00
Silver.									Silver.					
Foreign Bullion. Dep.	3040	40	3222	29	3749	55	3741	35	Half Dollars. Dep.	72.000	36.000	00		
Foreign Coins.	29633	15	29053	97	33805	01	33785	65	Half Dimes.	66.000	3300	00		
							37.557	56					39.300	00
Total Deposited							41.314	10	Total Coinage				54.300	00

Treasurer's Office
March 25 1840
H. Ebbamineck
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of January 1840.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value after deductions
	Ounces &c.	Ounces &c.	Dollars &c.	Dollars &c.	Dollars &c.
Gold:					
U. S. Bullion Say	7 53	8 075	150 20	150 20	
Foreign Bullion "	9 90	4 180	77 76	77 76	
					227 96
Silver:					
Foreign Coins Say	5067 55	5021 25	5842 60	5842 60	
					5842 60
			Total Deposited		6070 56

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
		Dollars &c.	Dollars &c.
Gold:			
Silver:			
Half Dollars, Say	2.000	1.000 00	
Dimes "	130.000	13.000 00	
Half Dimes "	110.000	5.500 00	
			19.500 00
		Total Coinage	19.500 00

Treasurers Office
25 March 1840
H. Chammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 26. 1840

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing herewith Statements of our operations for the months of January and February, made out according to the form prescribed by your letter of the 10th ult., and will transmit that of the present month, as soon after its close as possible -

Very respt.
Your obed. Servt.
J. McKenney
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq -
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

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Treasurer's Office U.S. Mint
Philadelphia March 30

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director
Philadelphia

Sir

I received on due Course your esteemed letter of 22nd February, and I have entered to the debit of your account $6.10 as advised by you.

I have also entered to your credit $65.75 Cents the amount of two drafts drawn by Mr Bradford in your favor in August of last year, and have debited Mr Woodall. Late Treasurer of this Mint, with the same. I had no doubt of the propriety of charging this amount to my predecessor but I considered it necessary for me to have the order of yourself & Mr Kennedy to do so in order to place the matter fairly at issue between Mr Woodall and the Government without responsibility on my part. Mr Kinnerly has given me his written instructions.

Mr Kinnerly wrote to you some time ago that there had been some enquiry at Washington about the residence at the Mint. I have received a letter from Mr Nicholas, our Senator, and I am pleased to learn that every thing has been explained satisfactorily, which is gratifying.

Our Mint is in full operation and the Coinage of this month will be the largest ever

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ver made here. Tomorrow evening the Statement for the Month will be made out and handed to Mr Kennedy, who will forward it to you.

All of our gold Certificates are paid, and we have ab$ 22.500 $ in gold Coins in hand.

The Silver Certificates are all paid up to the 15th of last Month, in which day a large deposite was made by one of our Banks; with this exception, and ab$ 1000 in small deposites, we have paid all the depositors up to the 17th instant.

The deposites made subsequent to the 15th February have been paid by Consent of the Bank, who does not want the Money until it is perfectly agreeable for us to pay. and by doing this we have accommodated a great Number of small depositors.

I am glad to find by a recent letter of Mr Kennedy that we will have a new Set of weights. The weights of the Treasurer of the Mint, I think, Mr Ex remain always in his Custody, and Refer as we onward to regulate the other weights in the other departments. We but one Set of weights, such by any and every body, Carried from Office to Office, and no Means of adjusting them they may get wrong and remain so and John never know it.

I hope when the new weights come that I may be allowed to take them in my possession to keep them for my own use only.

I am with great respect,
Yours faithfully & sincerely
A B Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of March 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Fineness after Melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	do	Ounces	do	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
U.S. Bullion Dep't	64	91	70	751	1316	29	1313	55		
Foreign Bullion "	23	90	23	904	444	72	445	90		
Foreign Coins "	620	03	608	665	11323	95	11323	95		
									13.084	96
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion Dep't	21550	36	22979	07	26739	27	26503	41		
Foreign Coins "	34.029	10	33.912	67	39.461	50	39.461	50		
									66.200	77
					Total Deposited				79.285	73

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles Dep't	200	1.000	00		
Quarter Eagles "	14.000	35.000	00		
				36.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars Dep't	84000	42.000	00		
Dimes "	215.000	21.500	00		
Half Dimes "	30000	1.500	00		
				65.000	00
		Total Coinage		101.000	00

United States Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office 31st March 1840.

A. Belcammer
Treasurer.

RG104 Entry 11

1846							
		By Amount brought forward				146652	68
March	31	" Cuninedaran & Co	1	Silver	deposit duc thus	95	39
"	"	" Dofflemeyer & Co	1	do	do	955	75
"	"	" Nicholas Lewis	1	do	do	960	44
"	"	" A. Mouquean	1	do	do	98	26
"	"	" Wm. M. Green	1	do	do	118	15
"	"	" V. C. Kennedy	1	do	do	119	97
"	"	" A. Maynard	1	Gold	do	116	52
"	"	" Louis Solomon	1	Silver	do	250	33
"	"	" F. Lampere	2	do	do	1805	84
"	"	" Mariano Garcia	1	do	do	98	02
"	"	" M. McKay	2	do	do	585	61
"	"	" V. Pinard	1	do	do	100	49
"	"	" R. D. Chapman	1	do	do	1267	85
"	"	" Citizens' Bk. of La.	3	do	do	16521	41
"	"	" Bank of Louisiana	1	do	do	20116	57
						189865	55

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, March 31st 1846.

H. B. Cammack
Treasr

RG104 Entry 11

Dr Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans Cr

1840			Dollars	cts
March	31	To Cash his account of Gold, for 57.330.9 Standard Gold, to be accounted for by him	1066	65
"	"	" Cash his account of Silver, for 10.315.55 g Standard Silver, to be accounted for by him	13167	14
"	"	" Melter & Refiner his acct of Gold, for 2961.092 g. Stand. Gold, to be accounted for by him	55.164	81
"	"	" Melter & Refiner his acct of Silver, for 7491.4.60 g Stand. Silver, to be accounted for by him	87.173	34
"	"	" Gold Coinage, for balance of this account	16.354	16
"	"	" Silver Coinage, for do " do	14.597	67
"	"	" Edmd Forstall for do " do	2.342	16
		Carried Forward	189.865	55

1840			Dollars	cts
March	31	By Gold Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 2.820 g Stand. Gold, due the Treasurer	52	61
"	"	" Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage, for 40.84 g. Stand. Silver due the Treasurer	48	79
"	"	" United States Deposit Account, for balance of this account	122480	00
"	"	" Profit & Loss, for balance of this account	3.820	63
"	"	" Treasurer of the U. States, (Special deposits) for balance of this account	1.700	00
"	"	" Ml. de Lizardi & Co, for 1 Gold deposit due them	161	52
"	"	" S. W. Leclerc & Co " 1 Silver do "	16.207	47
"	"	" A. D. Coffman " 1 Gold do "	56	53
"	"	" J. H. Martinellin " 1 Silver do "	105	41
"	"	" Office Citizens' Bank " 1 do do "	200	75
"	"	" D. Courtand " 3 do do "	297	85
"	"	" E. Cassard " 1 do do "	100	72
"	"	" L. Allandroit " 2 do do "	250	04
"	"	" B. Ougatte " 1 do do "	100	20
"	"	" Gabriel Vanuxem " 1 do do "	94	06
"	"	" C. Clapier " 1 do do "	95	65
"	"	" A. Lacroix " 1 do do "	227	74
"	"	" Gelman Hodgkins " 1 do do "	350	47
"	"	" C. Allantee " 1 do do "	100	55
"	"	" C. George " 1 do do "	101	93
"	"	" J. Fortuna " 1 do do "	99	13
		Carried Forward	146652	65

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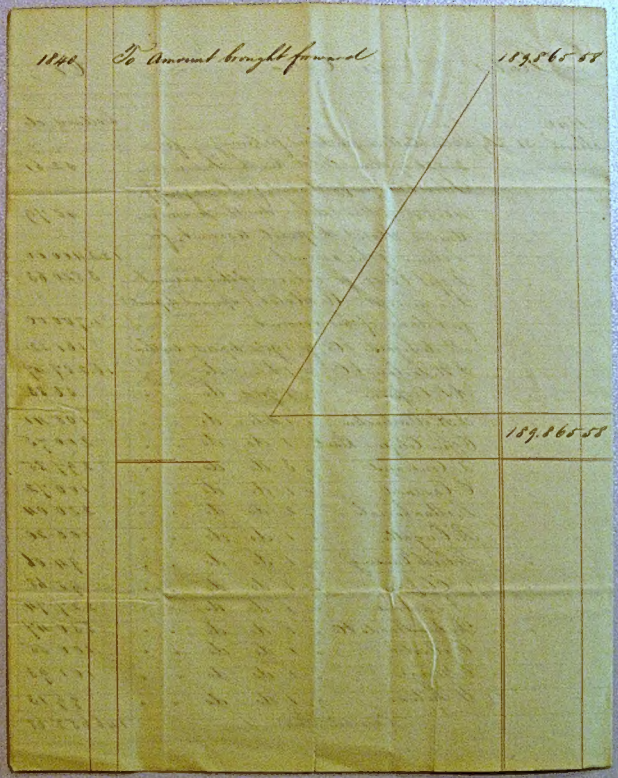

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
April 1, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith a Statement of my account of ~~receipts~~ moneys received & expended on behalf of your Mint, during the Quarter just closed, together with the necessary Vouchers. A balance remains in my hands, to your Credit, of $616.53.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson.
Director.

To,
M. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of the Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

The following are the Expenditures by E. Forstall charged under the head of the appropriation "for furnishing establishment inclusive of all apparatus, tools and fixtures not included in contracts," viz.

Bills of sundry persons from Jan. 25th to March 31st 1838. for furniture, Masons Work, Carpenters Work &c.	2,942. 70.
From April 4th to June 30th 1838 for Maps, Iron, furniture, mason's work, digging Wells for Cisterns, Lumber &c. amounting to *	5,769. 82.
Amt paid McCracken for Bookcase tables &c. charged under this Approp.	258. 00.
	8,970. 52.

* in which included an item of $40 for a bust of E. Livingston, which should have been disallowed, when the account was adjusted

The following are charged under head of building & Machinery

Account of Hain & Stroud from 26th Decr 1837 to 24th Febry 1838 for Mantles, grates, shelves, hearths &c.	859. 50
Bills of sundry persons from 28th May to 11th June 1838 for mantle pieces grates, railing &c.	3,859. 25
Bills of sundry persons for building out houses &c from 1st July to 30th Septr 1838.	11,749 46
	16,468. 21.

From 1st Oct. to 31. Decr 1838. for

painting

RG104 Entry 11

painting & glazing, Iron railing, building outhouses &c . . . . 18,079. 73.
From 1st Jany to 31st March 1839 for labor, bricks, mantles, castings, grates, fixings &c . . . . 9 977. 56.
From 1st April to 30th June 1839, for plastering, making gutters, repairing outhouses, fixing doors, cupboards, closets &c. 1539. 75.
$ 46,065. 25.

Amount expended and charged under head of Building & Machinery by H. Commack viz.
Bills of sundry persons for Carpenters work, hanging bells, paper hanging, lumber, bricks, painting, repairs &c during 4th quarter 1839. . . . . 1913. 94.
1st quarter 1840 for carpenters work Mantle piece, Mason's work, repairs &c. 980. 12.
2894. 06.
48,959. 31.

Among those Expenditures charged as incidental Contingent are items for furniture, Carpenters work, finishing outhouses, painting, repairs, &c

RG104 Entry 11

March 31 1840

Statement of the amount of Money drawn out under the appropriations of 3d March 1835 & 3 March 1837 for the establishment of a Branch Mint at New Orleans shewing by whom received and the amount expended:

Amount rec'd by Martin Gordon, sen'r Commissioner appointed to have the General Superintendence of the Work connected with the erection & completing of the Building, viz:

Warrant N° 876 dated May 25th 1835			$ 1000. 00
" — 1819	"	Oct'r 7	" 71,000. 00.
" — 4382	"	Dec'r 27th 1836	71,000. 00.
" — 5691	"	June 29th 1837	40,000. 00.
			183,000. 00.

His expenditures including his salary & Commissions up to the time of the rendition of his last account, after deducting $9- for postage which was suspended for want of Voucher amounted to 186,275. 13.

leaving this balance due Commissioner 3,275. 13.

which was closed by warrant in his favor N° 4272 dated May 5th 1840.

The amount of the appropriations for said Branch

Pr. act of 3d March 1835 was . . . 200,000. 00.

Pr. act of 3d March 1837 " 96,500. 00.

296,500. 00.

The am't of Mr Gordons Expenditures allowed . . . 186,275. 13

Bal'e so far as Mr Gordon is concerned 110,224. 87.

Amount received by Dr R. M. Patterson, who was entrusted to procure the

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Balc. brot forward 110,224. 87.

machinery & apparatus, viz

Warrant No. 1437 dated Augt 17th 1835. $8000.
" " 2459. " Jany 30th 1836. 8,000.
" " 3771. " Sept 8th " 10,000.
" " 4813. " Febry 28th 1837. 13,000.
" " 6060. " July 25. " 7,500.
" " 7711. " Febry 26th 1838 710. 47,210. 00.

which I suppose was all expended, for it appears that Dr Patterson drew monies out under several other heads of approp.s which together with the above amounted to the sum of $68,811. 22, and when his account was rendered, there appeared to be a balance remaining in his hands of only $ 853. 01.

Balance after deducting Expenditures by Gordon and Patterson . . . $ 63,014. 87.

But it appears that Mr Forstall & Mr Cammack were permitted to draw out money under the aforesaid appropriations Mr Forstall to the amount of the following, viz

Warrant No. 8621. dated May 23 1838 $10,000.
" " 9118. " July 9th " 10,000.
" " 9447. " Augt 25. " 10,000.
" " 10,150. " Nov 17. " 10,000.
" " 2. " Jany 2d 1839 5000.
" " 1500. " June 5. " 5000.
$50,000.

The Amt expended by him was 46,065. 25.

Leaving a Balc. over his Expenditures of $ 3,934. 75.

which

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which I supposed was delivered over to Mr Cammack, when he superseded Mr Forstall.

Mr Cammack rec.d Warrants on said appropriation to the amount of the following, viz

Warrant N.o 3139 dated Nov. 19.th 1839 $ 3,500.
" " 3999. " March 17.th 1840. 1,000.
$4,500.

The amount expended by him to 31.st March 1840. was . . . 2,894.06.
$1605. 94.

To which add the sum supposed to have been delivered to him by Forstall . . . . . 3,934. 75.

Bal.e remaining in hands of Cammack 31.st March 1840. . . . $5,540. 69.

Amount of the appropriations . . . $296,500. 00.
From which deduct whole amt drawn out by Warrants, viz.

By Gordon . . .	$186,275. 13.	
By Patterson . . .	47,210. 00.	
" Forstall . . .	50 000. 00.	
" Cammack . . .	4,500. 00.	287,985. 13.
Balance in Treasury		$ 8,514. 87.

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Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of April 1840

Deposited

Kind of Deposited	Gross Weight after melting	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions
	Ounces dec.	Ounces dec.	Dolls. cts.	Dolls. cts.	Dollars, cts.
Gold.					
U.S. Bullion, Assy	56 43	40 670	756 04	749 56	
Foreign Bullion, "	53 19	37 114	690 18	690 14	
Foreign Coins, "	1134 97	1099 136	20449 60	20449 60	
					21.896 12
Silver:					
U.S. Bullion Assy	47 44	17 55	20 42	20 37	
Foreign Bullion, "	1402 85	1444 61	1680 97	1675 23	
Foreign Coins, "	46550 25	46346 39	53930 14	53930 14	
					55.631 53
			Total deposited		77.527 65

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
		Dollars, cts.	Dollars, cts.
Gold.			
Quarter Eagles, Assy	4500.	22.000 00	
			22.000 00
Silver			
Half Dollars, Assy	82.000	41.000 00	
Quarter Dollars, "	20.000	5.000 00	
Dimes "	20.000	2.000 00	
			48.000 00
Total pieces	130.500		
	132.500	Total Coinage	70.000 00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, April 30th 1840
A. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans April 1. 1840

Sir,

Enclosed you have our Statement for March, shewing a coinage larger than that of any other Month, since this Mint went into operation.

I have just rec.d from the Secretary of the Treasury three boxes of dies, of which I as the mail is now about closing, I will give you the denominations in my next.

Very respectfully
Your Ob.t Serv.t
J. Mahoney
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esq.r
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Phil.a

Our coals have not yet arrived.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
April 2. 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith Bills of Lading for 25 Casks more of Steel shipped on the 27th ult., and for One hhd. of Black Lead Pots, shipped on the 30th ult. These pots are No. 60, and larger ones will be sent as soon as they can be procured. Black Lead Pots Coins have been ordered from the Manufacturers, and will be shipped to you from Boston as soon as they can be made.

Please to inform me if Lead pots No. 120 could be used in your furnaces: these can be obtained here at once, while those of No. 80 must be imported, and with a delay of at least 6 months.

R. M. P.

Col
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Ass't Ass Mint.
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
April 12. 1840

Sir,

It was with no small degree of surprise that I learned from your letter of the 24th ult: that attempts had been made (indirectly you presume) to convey to the mind of the Secretary of the Treasury, impressions unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. Under such circumstances you apply to me for information and for my frank opinion. I will answer your inquiries in the order in which they are made.

I have always found Mr. Tyler attentive to his business in the Mint, he has shown a proper anxiety to get forward with his work, and I have no cause to be dissatisfied with him. The fact of an unreasonable accumulation of bullion in his hands, or in those of the Treasurer has never to my knowledge, been mentioned to him, and he has at all times coined all the bullion prepared for him, and has also been able to keep pace with the Melter. It has happened once or twice only, that a little delay has taken place in the department of the melter, it has, just, because a considerable quantity of bullion, some of which we still have on hand, has required separating and that it is difficult here, and sometimes impossible to obtain the acids, and, in the most places on account of the necessity of returning on bags and

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of ing to be refused, from the circumstance of their containing nothing. The demand for half dimes has not been of late very considerable. Should it ever become so, that coinage shall be restricted within such limits as will not keep the Mint behind hand and in debt.

I have no fault to find with any of the officers. In the Mint they all appear to be disposed so to discharge the duties of their respective departments, as to preserve harmony in the Institution, and to merit for it, your approbation and the confidence of the public. If there be any contrariety existing between them or not, I do not know it. Have you any idea of the source from which the Secretary of the Treasury has derived his information. You suggest to me the propriety if I think the insinuation against Mr. Eckfeldt unfounded, of considering the subject of your communication confidential. Having much confidence in Mr. Eckfeldt, and knowing in how great a degree he has the interests of the Mint at heart, I have deemed it proper to show that communication to him, with the same injunction, and with the request that he will state at the foot of the letter, whether he concurs with me, in the statement I have given at your desire.

The dies that we have received, are

1 pr. of 1/2 Dollars
1 pr. " 1/4 ditto
1 pr. of Dimes
1 pr. of 1/2 ditto and
1 pr. of 1/4 eagles -

We have also received Bills of lading for articles shipped on the 14th and 20th inst.

The ruler given by you in the place of your former instruction in relation to the ingots and clippings that pass between the Melter and Coiner, shall be observed for the future -

very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

J. Mc Kenney
Sup't.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director &c
Phila.

I concur in the above letter. I think Mr Taylor has always shewn great anxiety to get forward with the coinage -

W. Ebammack
Treas

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Copy.

Senate Chamber, April 13th 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have reason to believe that the branch mint at New Orleans has done something better during the month of March than heretofore; that it has coined about $100,000; but that is but little more than the one third of the capacity of that Mint.

I hope that the chapter of excuses is exhausted, and that we are going to see what the Mint can do. As yet I have seen no quarter dollars mentioned from that Mint. Can you do me the favor to enquire whether they have dies and a press for that coin? and if so, when they received them? and what is the reason they do not work? Also, whether they work but one press at a time? and if so, why not work two or three? Also, whether they have the dies for the eagle? Dr Patterson, I presume, can answer all these questions; and I prefer to get the answers through you, without the formality of a call through the Senate.

That Branch Mint at N. O. was one of

RG104 Entry 11

my pet children. It has disappointed me sadly thus far; we have had excuses for three years, and I want no more of them. I now want to see a coinage at the rate of $3,000,000. per annum.

Yours truly
(Signed) Thomas H. Benton.

Hon. Mr. Woodbury
Secr. of the Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
April 14. 1841.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a communication, received this morning from Mr. Benton of the Senate, and will thank you for such information as will enable me to reply to Mr. B's enquiries.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury

R. M. W. Patterson
Philadelphia.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States.
April 16 / 41.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing me a copy of one to you of the 13th, from Mr. Benton of the Senate, making inquiries respecting the New Orleans Mint.

In answer to Mr. Benton's first question, I have to state that the New Orleans Mint has a quarter dollar punch, and has had quarter dollars dies sent to it from here, in January and in March. If no quarter dollars have been coined, I cannot presume that it is because they have not been asked for by depositors. Of all silver coins, they are by far the least in demand here. At New Orleans, the coin most required of the Mint is the half dime, in which a petty traffic is carried on, in consequence of its high current at 6¼ cents. I agree, however, fully, with Mr. Benton, that quarter dollars ought to be coined at New Orleans, and I will call the attention of the Superintendent to this matter.

I am not able to give a positive answer to the question whether more pieces than one thousand pieces at a time of the New Orleans Mint; but it is certain that one

~~press constantly employed~~ they need not employ more than one to strike all the planchets that they can prepare with their force, and for more than all the bullion given to them for coinage. The deposites in March amounted to but ~~$2,000,000~~ $13,085 in gold, and $66,201 in silver. The gold could be struck, in half ~~and quarter~~ eagles, in about a hour and a half, and in quarter eagles in about three hours. The silver, if ~~coined~~ into half dollars, would employ one press ~~24 hours~~ a little more than ~~a day~~ four days work: quarter dollars would ~~be coined~~ take about three times as long. Our present rate of coining dimes and half dimes, is 84 in a minute, or 5000 pieces in an hour, with one press. At days work, of ten hours, would thereby give $5,000 worth of dimes, and $2,500 of half dimes. The great labor & expenditure of time and labor, is not in the press-work, but in the numerous and often complicated processes necessary to prepare the bullion for the press. During the last year, there was coined more than $2,000,000 worth, ~~on dies~~ and there was not, on an average, more than one press constantly employed, though and in the year included the striking of upwards of three millions of cents.

There was supplied the New Orleans Mint with dies for the eagle, because I think it proper that the small amount of gold which they receive should be coined into half and quarter eagles.

The Branch Mint at New Orleans has this approved, three years, all three are equal to establishment.

I believe, as sincerely as Mr. Benton, that there may be no more ~~coinages~~ from the New Orleans Mint, and especially such coinages as occurred last year in the absence of two of the officers and the removal of the other. ~~from any sufficient cause.~~ At present ~~I approve~~ the principal coinage to be effected ~~by the mint~~ is a deficiency of bullion for coinage.

R. M. P.
D. M.

The Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Branch Mint of the United States,
New Orleans, April 17th 1840

Sir

I have received your esteemed favor of the 1st instant, covering your account of moneys received & expended on behalf of this Mint, during the first quarter of the present year, and shewing a balance in your hands to my Credit of $616.53. which is correct.

Your letter of the 4th ultimo to M.r Kennedy answers mine of the 14th of the previous month, but it appears that the inquiry I made of you, respecting the right to exchange American Coins for foreign, was not expressed plainly enough to be understood by you, in as much as both the interpretations of which you say it is susceptible, and according to which you framed your reply, do not answer my enquiry; I will therefore, now endeavour to explain my views to you in the plainest possible manner.

Some of our Merchants will not deposite Mexican Coins to be melted, assayed &.c according to the regulations of the Mint, as they are unwilling to run the risk of sustaining any loss, should there be any, but they are willing to exchange them for American Coins, at their nominal value, say One thousand Mexican Dollars, for One thousand American. I wish to know whether it would be warrantable for me, (after we are out of debt) to make such exchanges at the risk of the Mint, or at

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my own risk: By this means, the Mint can always have a fair supply of Bullion for its operations.

I should also like to know, if I can have coined the money required to pay contingent expenses, and in doing so, if it is at my own risk: under the impression that this could be done, I have had coined the two last sums received by me from the Government. Will you will please give me your views.

My quarterly accounts go forward, by the mail that carries this, to the Secretary of the Treasury. I send you a copy of our balance sheet, for your examination, and will be pleased to forward any other documents, which may be in any way interesting to you. I am anxious to have my accounts in perfect order, should you see or hear of the smallest irregularity, I trust you will point it out to me.

Mr. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for an increase in the United States Deposit account, say for $100000 more, which will be sufficient to keep the Mint regularly supplied with Bullion, which can not be done with the present deposits.

I am Sir,
with great respect
Your very faithfully
A. G. Cammack
Treas.

D. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint

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Branch Mint of the United States.
New Orleans April 15th 1840

Sir

I have thought it prudent to keep you fully informed at all times, of the condition of our coining dies — I have received in 1840. three pair each, of 1/2 D. dimes & 1/2 dimes, — 2 of 1/2 dollars, 1 of 1/4 & 1 of 1/2 eagles — which are disposed of as follows —

The first pair of 1/2 dollars, struck about 30.000 pieces, and gave away either from bad heading, or from using bad silver, the latter of which I am inclined to think was the case, from the fact of their both breaking about the same time, and presenting the same peculiar fracture, as also from the fact of finding several coins in the box containing coin, The pair of 1/2 dimes & 1/4 dimes were broken in the same way before I discovered that the silver contained iron, when on the examination I found I had several draughts of coins containing large pieces of iron in them, all of which were duly superintended to the Assayer and returned for refining. The second pair of 1/2 dollar dies struck about 80.000 pieces, when the tail die gradually gave out, The head Head and third tail, are now in the press in good order, the head having struck upwards of 300.000 pieces, from the appearance of the tail I think it will not last longer than this month out — The second pair of dimes struck 310.000 pieces, and are still pleasantly good, the

the three pair are both to short for the press, notwithstanding which I could use them both by filling cups to their bottoms as I have done once before. But the tail dies is too shallow not having a full head before grinding— The third pair dimes have not yet been tried from the fact of my not having had any silver since about the 25th last month from which I could possibly work small coins.

The quarter dollar press has been refitted & the dies prepared for use. but owing to the M & R. not having ingot moulds enough. they will not be called in requisition for some days to come.

Thus you will see, I am confined almost to 1 pair of ½ dollar & 1 of ½ dimes dies. yet I believe you will be satisfied from the above statement that thus far they have done all that could be expected of them. and from the difficulties arising from our being at such a great distance from the mother mint I am sure you will see the propriety of our having at least three pair of the denominations most in use at all times on hand. I have made great improvement in hardening and tempering the dies, since I commenced & hope before many days to give entire satisfaction in that respect. I entertain no fears for the performance of my own department provided the silver is supplied to me in a proper state for coining.

In rebuilding the Middle Siza Screw I have deviated in some respects from the former plan and proportions & this for the most is very favorable, especially in the plan for pivot, or centers of the triangle as also in the mode of suspending it by a jointed connection. which I think would enable me to run the press 100 revolutions per minute. but I fear for the pulling consequently I geared it at about 80. per minute.

As our presses have been altered since they left Philad.a I have thought it best to send you the lengths for the dies of the three presses which are as follows

Length of ½ dollar when fitted—	tail die	2 5/16 inches
" " " "	head "	2 "
" ¼ " "	head & tail alike	1 7/16
" dime " "	tail	1 7/16
" " " "	head	1 ¼

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant.
Philetus B. Tyler
Coiner

No 8.

Dr. R. M. Patterson.
Director U.S. Mint

Mint U. S.

April 22d, 1840.

Sir,

Immediately this morning, upon the receipt of the Sham to acknowledge the receipt of your amended report for January and February, and of your report for March. The last is particularly satisfactory, as it holds out the prospect of your getting your coinage in advance of all the claims upon you, so as to make the general deposits sufficient for the purchase of bullion with prompt payment.

Sham also to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 12th inst, in answer to mine of the 24th ult, on the subject of certain communications unfavorable to the official character of Mr. Tyler. I shall have sent a copy of this correspondence to the Secretary of the Treasury, and this will close the matter for the present. I returned from yesterday from a short visit to Washington, where I found Col. Benton, (from whom the inquiry certainly came that led to the Secretary's letter,) in much better humor with your Mint, in consequence of the March report. He thinks, however,

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that you ought to be coining at the rate of three millions a year.

I send, herewith, a copy of a recent arrangement respecting your Mint, which on the whole it is well for you to be acquainted. I would particularly call your attention to that part which regards the coinage of quarter dollars.

R. M. T.
Dall.

Jas
Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

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Mint Office

April 22d 1840.

Sir,

In the close of my letter to you of the 21st inst., in reply to your inquiries respecting the qualifications of the assistant Coiners of the New Orleans Mint, I omitted that I would write to Mr. Kennedy, and make inquiry as to his impressions with regard to Mr. Tyler's discharge of his functions. I have now the honor to send you copies of my letter to Mr. Kennedy, and of his answer, received this morning.

I. M. P.

D. Sc.

To
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting
& you, by the present mail, a box of dies for
the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded
under your power to the Superintendent, & ad-
dressed upon the inner envelope.

Very respectfully,

Yr

R. M. P.

D

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury.
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

Mobile Ala.

April 27 / 46

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst.,

I thank you for sending me a copy of your quarterly account, as I am always glad to be made acquainted with your transactions, even when I have no immediate official control over them.

You say that Gen. Kennedy has it in contemplation to apply for an increase in your present deposite. I know that a good fund of this kind is very advantageous in Bank operations, and I wish the ~~application~~ intended application could succeed. I have little ~~to~~ hope of it however. The public treasury is now too poor, I fear, to admit of the ~~withdrawal~~ appropriation of which you advise.

In my letter of the 16th of March, I explained, at large, the course pursued at this Mint, as to the valuation of deposits of Mexican dollars, and I will add that I do not think it would be safe or right to pursue any other rule which could be

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with us, on the most prompt payment, on account, and to the nominal value of the deposite. But this must mean be a final transaction between the banks, I believe without exception, found a balance remaining due to the depositor: but if it should prove otherwise, in consequence of a mixture of counterfeit or any other cause, then the depositor must be required to return the balance difference. I speak now of the case in which half dollars are coined. Where small coins are required, and the charge for coinage is made, there is a slight loss on the deposite, or Treasury dollars. I object, altogether, to any bargain, that the Mint shall return the nominal value, whatever may be the true value. On the whole, such a traffic would be profitable to the Mint, but then it is decidedly illegal.

Your question as to the coinage of foreign money, received from the government for the payment of contingent expenses, is a very important one, which has frequently presented itself to my own mind, but on which we have not yet acted at this Mint. I think it very desirable that such a coinage should be made; but there is difficulty in the way, presented by the fact that there will be a profit or a loss in the operation. It appears to me, therefore, that authority for such coinage should be asked of the Department, with the attendant privilege of opening a profit and loss account in this coinage of such gold as will be sent. If the substitutary system shall be established, the question will be superseded in importance. I will write to the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject, and let you have his decision. It would be mortifying that the citizens should pay out foreign coins, especially if they do not correspond with our monetary system, such as British Sovereigns, &c.

R. M. P.
D. L.

M. C. Cammack, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
April 28. 1840.

Sir,

I send by the present mail to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing

1 Half dollar bill die
1 Dime do. do.
1 Half-dime do. do.

Mr. Taylor informs me that he has a duplicate of each of the above denominations.

R. M. P.
Director.

To
Dr. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans 29th April 1840

Sir

On receipt hereof, you will please pay to Messrs Baldwin Vail & Hufty, a bill of theirs against this Branch Mint, amounting to $196.50 being cost of one pair of Sight Shears made for the Melter and Refiners department. Which amount you will please charge to my account, as Treasurer of this Branch Mint.

I am with great respect
Yours very faithfully
H. Clammer
Treas.

D. Kell, Patterson
Director U. S. Mint.

RG104 Entry 11

In the account of George W. Slacum, U States Consul at Rio de Janeiro, from 31 May to 31 August 1839. the following charge occurs, which is respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Amount paid the Comptroller of the Imperial Treasury
for Brazilian Coins, ordered by Mr. Patterson,
Director of the Mint, at Philadelphia 24.24
Commission thereon at 5 per cent. 1.21

Dolls 25.45

Treasury Department
Fifth Auditor's Office
April 29, 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
April 29. 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of a box of dies, which has been forwarded to the Supt. of the branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Enclosed you will receive and extract from the account of G. W. Slacum Consul of U States at Tunis being his charge for Coins furnished for the Mint, and I would take occasion to remark that it is desirable this and similar accounts forwarded to the Mint should be arranged as early as practicable, that the parties may be credited here in their respective accounts with the Government.

Very Respectively

Levi Woodbury

Sec. of the Treasury.

F. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans May 3. 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a Statement of the operations for the month of April and will write you in relation to it by the Mail.

Very respectfully

Your obed. Serv.

J. W. Mackey
Sup.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans May 7. 1840

Sir,

In my last to you of the 3d instant, enclosing an Abstract for April, I said that I would by the next Mail write you in relation to that Statement. What I meant was, that I would assign the cause, why our Coinage for that month, fell so far short of that for March - for that explanation has been delayed a little, in consequence of certain inquiries made by me of the Coiner, respecting our quarter-Dollar press, to which I requested, at his earliest leisure, a reply, which I intended, at the same time, to submit to you as furnishing the reason why that press was not sooner put in Operation - It was accordingly so = ticed, that I rec'd Mr Tyler's communication from which I will give you a few extracts.

"When we commenced in November last, I "found the press in the same condition as when it "arrived from Phila. The Cock-Shaft was broken. "The Crank to spread a crack near the Socket - "The ball and Socket, as well as the two upper "joints were worn nearly so as to require refitting

...

RG104 Entry 11

About the 1st of Jan[y] I commenced by your request to put the press in working order. I found it necessary to make a new triangle, and availed myself of the opportunity for altering its pivots and mode of shifting to the improved plan adopted and found in use in the two other presses – I also made a new bolt and socket, as the old one could not be properly secured to the triangle. The two upper joints were refitted, and groves cut to receive the oil &c – also a new rack shaft, a new tube, and new forceps or pitchers, as the press had never been used for that. By your advice I also detached the flywheel from the main shaft, and secured it by a friction collar &c &c – It was completed about the 1st of April last – During the time it was repairing I employed generally only one hand, but kept workmen at it during other leisure from the operation of coining – The dies were then fitted, and as soon as the cutting dies could be made, the milling machine prepared, and the Silver passed through the several processes preparatory to stamping, the press was put into operation, which was on the 14th of April –

We now in the early part of April thought we had some 8 or 10 days in the Coining in consequence of a large deposite of Silver which it was found exceedingly difficult to work the Melter having had to refuse it on offer at three times – The new deposites were at that moment inconsiderable, we had very little Bullion on hand that did not require Separating and it was late in the Month before we rec[d] our Casks from Philadelphia – There were in all 48 Casks, one having been broken on board of each vessel – The two boys Calamus the Scales and Weights and one package of Copper Typhon have also come to hand – We are in hopes that the Coinage for the Month will make up for the small amount of that of the last –

I trust that these "excuses" will be deemed sufficient by you, altho they might perhaps not satisfy Mr Barton – I could but contrast the unassuming tone of his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury with the communications of him in whose hands the Coi-

RG104 Entry 11

has put the contents of the Branch Mint – I/ly be satisfied, that under all the circumstances we are doing our best, the "humm" that Mr Burton happens to be in, is not of much importance –

I am Sir, with great respect
Your Most Ob Servant
J. R. McConnell
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director &c Phila

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U.S.
Philadelphia.

RG104 Entry 11

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S. May 12/10.

Sir,

You are aware that all my efforts to call the attention of Congress to the errors and evils arising from the existing laws making certain foreign coins a legal tender have failed. There is one form in which this matter presents itself that is particularly annoying, and which where the remedy may be applied, as I presume, by a simple intimation from yourself. I refer to the receiving from the Atlantic Steamers, of foreign coins delivered from the government for forging ordinary expenses. At the Steamer Arrives at Mint, the Captain informs me that he has landed such & amount to be converted; but this course will always have the effect of changing the nominal value of the amount, and will require that corresponding entries be made in the bullion profit and loss account. Under these circumstances, I do not think it proper to act in the case without authority from the Department, and I accordingly ask for such authority.

In connection with this subject, it may not be improper to direct your attention to the 8th section of the "Act regulating foreign coins and for other purposes," passed Feb. 9, 1793. It is as follows.

"That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish mill'd dollars and parts of such dollars)

which shall be received in payment for moneys due to the United States, after the said time, ~~for the expiration of three years after the coinage has commenced at the Mint at Philadelphia by public notice of the President~~ when the coining of gold and silver coin shall begin at the Mint of the U.S, shall, previous by to their being issued in circulation, be coined anew, in conformity to the Act entitled an act ~~entitled~~ establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the U.S.

I suppose that the subsequent laws making foreign coins a legal tender have tacitly ~~superseded~~ superseded this enactment, — but it shows the policy of the government at the time, and what I believe to be its true policy now.

R. M. P.

Hon. Louis McLane,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

To
R. Patterson
Director of the U S Mints.

New Orleans May 16th 1840

Respected Sir You will perhaps be surprised to receive these few lines from one who is so little known to you but I feel convinced that the circumstances in which I am placed demand the correspondence on my part. The circumstances are simply these you will perhaps recollect that I came out and immediately after the Lamented Mrs Maxwell the late Melter & Refiner of the U S Branch Mint at this place in whose employment I Remained as Foreman of the melting department up to the time of his death. And was continued in that employ of the Mint in the melting department until the appointment of Dr Reddell the present incumbent by whom I was also employed as Foreman of the Melter & Refiner's Department The duties of which station I have the humble satisfaction of believing were faithfully and honestly performed by me during the whole time I was so engaged, of this however I would leave others to speak and therefore refer to the letters of Mrs Maxwell the late Melter & Refiner and to Mr W C Cammack the present Treasurer also Mr Jacob Barker of this city

Both to my utter surprise and astonishment and without any reason being assigned about the 1st of April last Lt Reddell informed me that I was discharged from the department of the mines under his direction. Thus without any apparent cause being assigned I found my self thrown out of a situation in which I am not conscious of having committed any intentional error nor is any said to my charge and in the performance of the duties appertaining to the station which I held I have undergone that pestilence of a southern climate the Yellow Fever and at the time of my discharge I had just taken upon myself the responsibilities of a matrimonial engagement, I found myself compelled either to quit the mines or seek for employment elsewhere & accept an inferior station in the Canons department. Thus finding my hope of advancement blasted at once and my self placed in a situation from which the most unfounded inferences might be drawn in relation to my character and actions more especially as Lt Reddell has admitted that I understood & had faithfully performed my duties which will very naturally lead to the supposition that he would not discharge a man who understood and performed his duties without sufficient reason these and a number of other conclusions equally as unfavorable to my character might be inferred from the position which I am thus thrown into, hoping that you will excuse me for troubling you with this long epistle, In conclusion I would add that I do not expect to be restored to the station which I held in the Medical & Chemical department nor would I accept such a restoration under the direction of the present incumbent. I therefore beg leave to lay the foregoing grievances before you feeling satisfied that whatever action you may take on the subject will be satisfactory.

I am very respectfully
your humble servant
Peter S Lesch

To Dr Patterson
Director of the U. S. Mints

P. S. as my friends are most all known in Philada and should you think proper to inquire of my respectability I refer you to E. Lesch 242 North Third St a Leather dealer and To Lesch & Jenkins 150 Market St Hardware dealers

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RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans 17th May
1840.

Respected Sir

I take the liberty of flying to you for protection, as I cannot obtain it here being discharged from the mint by Dr. Riddle and without his assigning any cause, my character is injured, I am even looked upon with suspicion by those who heretofore would serve me and who know that I was employed in the mint am now discharged and nobody knows why, I went to the superintendent for redress and he only fed me with promises which were never realized. the following is the substance of my dispute with Dr. Riddle, he made a contract with me, prior to the first of April to work in his department at a salary of $65. per month, but compelled me to the agreement of paying him 50 cts per day, (for the purpose as he said) of increasing the salary of Dr MacCarthy who is employed in the establishment, and who never heard a word of the transaction from Dr. Riddle

still some days after my discharge
I was also compelled to board with him
at $18 per month, on my reporting the
nature of my contract to the superintendent, and Dr Riddle being called up, he
immediately discharged me, and on the
settling of my account he allows me
but $1.62½ per day in the way face
of our other engagements, after previously
expressing himself perfectly satisfied
with me, — in case of any investigation
of his conduct I am fortunate enough
to have secured proofs innumerable
of his guilt —

I am yours respectfully

Ewald Ernst

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RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
May 27. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies for the Br. Mint at Birmingham, to be forwarded, under your frank, to the Supt., as addressed upon the inner envelope.

Two boxes more, for the same Mint, will be sent by the two next mails.

Very respectfully,
Your
R. M. P.

(To)
Hon. Levi Woodbury.
Sec. of Treas.

(Unofficial.)

Mint U.S.
May 28/48.

Dear Sir,

I received a letter yesterday from Peter V. Vanick and Ewald Ernst, complaining of the circumstances under which they had been discharged from your employ, and making accusations, of a very grave character, against Dr. Riddell. The same sinister accusations had come to my own knowledge, indirectly, though a correspondent of one of our newspapers; but I attributed no importance to that it must be without foundation, as I had just received a letter from you that was utterly incompatible with the existence of any such offence as that accused. The accusation, as you know, is that Dr. Riddell had employed a hand or hands, without authority to coin pieces to be issued by the government, but with a private bargain that a part of the pieces was to be given up, — the first story said for the private gain of Dr. Riddell, the second for the benefit of a Dr. MacCarthy employed in the establishment. The inference which I draw from Ernst's letter is that he had made the accusation in question, — that you enquired into it, and found it false,

RG104 Entry 11

and that you immediately dismissed him as a slanderer. — You will excuse me, however, for asking you for the exact truth in this matter, inasmuch as the affair has been already spread upon my attention.

It is proper to state that the letter of Mr. Levick is perfectly respectful to Dr. Riddell, against whom he makes no accusation or complaint, except that he had dismissed him without cause. Levick has respectable connexions here, and says that he writes only for the purpose of removing the unfavorable impressions which his discharge might make against his character.

I have marked this letter as "unofficial", because I do not wish to institute any formal inquiry, or to suppose the slightest doubt of the propriety of the measures which you have taken as to the discharged men. My predilections as to Dr. Riddell are very favorable.

R. M. P.

To
John M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Bu. Med.
New Orleans.

P. S. We sent, by yesterday's mail, to the Sec. of Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing 1 bot. of dinner & 1 bot. ½ dinner dito. We send to-day a box containing 1 bot. ½ dollar dito; & shall send to-morrow a third box, containing 1 bot. ½ eagle & 1 bot. ½ eagle dito. ~~The receipt of which please to acknowledge~~

RG104 Entry 11

Situation of the United States Branch Mint, New Orleans

Available funds on hand

In possession of the Coiner in Gold		$37.071.99	
Ditto	do in Silver	23.177.96	$60.249.95
Ditto	Melter & Refiner in Gold	39.357.30	
Ditto	do in Silver	53.457.80	92.815.10
Gold Coinage on hand			529.28
Silver Coinage on hand			50827.21
Amount due by S. Postell, late Treasurer			2342.16
			$206.263.70

Liabilities of the Mint

Gold Bullion Acct. due to the Treas. by this a/c	$ 52.72
Silver Bullion Acct. due to the Treas. by this a/c	49.11
U.S. Deposite Account, balance of this a/c	122.400.00
Profit & Loss, balance of this a/c	3.845.33
Treasurer of the U.S. Special deposite	1.700.00
Amount due to sundry persons for deposites of Gold & Silver: Gold 4700.94, Silver 73.515.60 = $78.216.54	78.216.54
	206.263.70

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, 30th May 1840.

A. Cammack

Due the United States ..... 122.400.

Which I have in Gold - 72.204.91
in Silver - 50.195.09 = 122.400.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans June 2d 1840

Sir,

Enclosed you have our Statement for May. It looks much better than that for April, but has fallen considerably short of my expectations. You will perceive that there has been no gold coined during the last month. This I would endeavour to explain now, but a desire to send you this Report by this day's Mail, which is about closing, induces me to postpone it for a short time, when I will also communicate to you other matters in relation to our Institution.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your obed.t Serv.t

R. M. Patterson
Director &c.

J. McKinney
Supt.

RG104 Entry 11

THE NEW ORLEANS SUN.

Tuesday Morning, June 22, 1830.

☞ We cheerfully repeat the following, being the means of exciting unmerited suspicion, in regard to the accounts of the melter and refiner of the Mint. Our information was derived from the representations of one who had lately been in the melter and refiner's employment, and whose authority we considered undoubted. Whilst we are to expose abuses, we are equally ready to do justice to an injured party. It is therefore a pleasure therefore to publish the following

Treasurer's Office, U. S. Branch Mint.
New Orleans, May 31, 1830.

Be it known, that I have this day, at the request of D. L. Riddell, melter and refiner of the Mint, (and in the presence of J. M. Keene, Esq. Superintendent,) examined the contents of the vaults; I have weighed the bullion as far as it was susceptible of being weighed, and have estimated the balance, and am satisfied that the amount of gold and silver bullion in the possession of D. L. Riddell, is fully equal to that called for by the books of my office.

H. C. CAMMACK,
Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint.

RG104 Entry 11

REMOVED.—DR. PETERS' principal office for the sale of his Vegetable Pills [redacted]

following ships:

CHEROKEE, 418 tons, S. Loring, commander.

CAROLINE, 480 tons, S. Loring, commander.

CHARLESTON, 375 tons, D. Elden, commander.

COLUMBIANA, [illegible] tons, G. Barker, commander.

CONCORDIA, 605 tons, Harding, [illegible]

The above ships are all new, of first class, [illegible] fastened and coppered, commanded by [illegible] experience, having large accommodations [illegible] separate ladies' cabin. Every attention will be [illegible] to passengers, and the very best of stores provided for them.

The packets will be towed up and down the [illegible] steamer, and the strictest punctuality observed. [illegible] the time of sailing, and should the ropes [illegible] be detained in arriving, other ships equally [illegible] will in all cases be substituted. A [illegible] age is solicited, and the agents pledge [illegible] to forward goods by said line, at the [illegible] charges, and to advance all expenses [illegible] paid, if required.

The ships will have the 1st and 15th [illegible] month.

For freight or passage apply to the [illegible]

JOHN A. MERRITT,

92 Common st.

Silver deposits unpaid 2d June 1840

May 4	Geo. Whitmore	$ 470.97
20	Bank of Louisiana	10.062.32
25	Citizens' Bank	20.111.01
28	F. Laville	99.38
	A. Macauley	100.43
		$ 30.844.11

Gold deposits unpaid 2d June 1840

1839 Dec 12	A Maynard	116.52
1840 May 23	J Valentine	1.332.68
25	A. Hepburn	3033.09
		$ 4482.29

Balance of Silver Coinage $ 8.078.54

" " Gold " 529.28

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans June 3. 1850

Sir

Your valued letter of the 27 April was received by me in due course and ought to have been acknowledged before.

I will be glad to have from you the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury as to the propriety of coining foreign coins which may be received from the Government for the purpose of paying contingent expenses. I agree with you that it seems horrible to pay out foreign Coins from the government mint. Until I hear further from you I conclude it will be proper to pursue the plan that has been usual at this mint.

In your letter you make mention of a charge for toughening when small coins are asked for by depositors. A charge of this sort has never been made at this mint. nor do I understand that the Silver is toughened by the melter & refiner for small coins.

The Silver Coinage during the past month was larger than ever before made in one month at this Mint. With a good supply of bullion we could get more rapidly than I had imagined possible. The Coiner struck in Half Eagles 40 000 half dollars in One press.

Of Gold we have done nothing for a long time. The same difficulty now exists about gold ingots, that created so much trouble with Silver last month about Silver ingots. Small Gold must have been made of Gold, which have been returned uncoined.

I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with reluctance, that the Melting & Refining department, in its operations has not reached the

RG104 Entry 11

anticipations I had entertained in consequence of the recommendations so warmly made by the friends of Mr Biddle. nor has he succeeded in procuring in this mint that harmony and good feeling so much to be desired: & without which the operations of the mint must be retarded, and the situation of its officers rendered unpleasant. As it was not to his friends brought Mr Biddle's name before you for nomination, which I did without knowing him and without his knowledge, I deem it incumbent on me to apprize you of my disappointment.

I have watched most anxiously the movements in Congress respecting the Branch Mints. Some of our friends there are under the belief that there is a want of friendly feeling on the part of the Mint in Philadelphia towards the Branch here. I have assured them that such, in my opinion is not the case; and have done so in such strong terms as will, I am sure, remove impressions that must have been erroneously formed.

I have not heard anything from Washington about my accounts, and am anxious to know that they have been properly settled. I informed you some time ago that I had remitted $2000 & odd in bullion paid a few Contingent expenses; and left a draft for that sum, which had been sent for by Mr Bradford, had been applied by me to the reimbursement of that sum in the bullion account. I am very desirous to know that this is understood & nothing to clearly, so as not to mix my accounts with Mr Bradford's in any manner. I believe that you understand the transaction, and I shall be glad to know that it is all correct & approved by you. I informed the department of the circumstance at the time.

In paying money out of the Mint, either for Contingent expences, or for bullion Carried, with the receipt of a clerk, known to be in the employ of the merchant, or Bank, be sufficient? or should principals sign the receipts? I allude particularly to payments made on the weighmaster's receipt where no Certificate is issued. I have, in almost every instance, required the signature of a principal, but as our mint is rising in our from the business part of the city, it is abandoned and great inconvenience is experienced particularly to Cashier of Banks who are now willing to send us as many Mexican dollars as we can Coin.

A Statement of the amount due to depositors and memorandum of Coin on hand is called for once every week. Our silver debt will be paid in less than a week unless some unexpected heavy deposites be made in the meantime.

Chs Francis Esqr & Messrs Gadsden Vail & Huger of the Carolina Bank $1965 for the principal & interest. I beg you to pay them. I should have advised their payment sometime ago. but overlooked it. I crave indulgence from these gentlemen for my want of promptness.

I have, my dear Sir, written to you freely & fully & in doing so transcended the bounds which decorum draws between a superior and an inferior officer & I pray you pardon me. A deep interest in the success of this Mint

RG104 Entry 11

and I am sure that we can look to none for advice and support, better than to yourself.

I am with Considerations of respect & esteem

Your faithful Servant

H. K. Cammack

To

Doct. R. M. Patterson

Director U. S. Mint

Philadelphia.

Hon. H. K. Cammack, Dr.
Cleaton, Pr. Anne's,
Maryland.

June 3d.
Rec'd 8 18, 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint, U.S.
June 6/40.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th 4th inst. on the subject of a claim for extra work, made by Mess. Mitchell & Son, for extra work done at the Chatham Mint Building.

In reply, I have only to state that, in a letter of the 11th of June last, (1839,) I communicated to the Secretary of the Treasury all the information that I possess upon this subject, and that any further explanations must be derived from Mess. Gordon, — and that I have not received from him the letter which you announce. I feel how desirable it is that this claim should be satisfactorily brought to a conclusion, but I do not know of any further step that I can take in the matter.

R. M. P.
D.

To/ John Connolly, Esq.
Washington.

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

My dear Sir,

Enclosed I hand you a letter for Dr. Patterson and if you think it not objectionable, please to forward it to him.

My remarks about Dr. Riddle are drawn from me only by a sense of justice due, as I believe it to Dr. Patterson and to myself. Having the first recommended him for appointment, I conceive that I am obligated to communicate any disappointment which I have met with subsequent to the nomination.

As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust that there will be no allusion on what I have written, and for that reason I suggest to you the propriety of my letter being considered private. I do this with more propriety as you have intimated to me your intention of reporting to Dr. Patterson on this subject. I hope that the particular

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circumstances in which I am placed, will be a sufficient apology to you for my communicating with the Director of the Mint on this matter. I beg to assure you that it is far from my wish to be wanting in respect to you, or assume to myself duties that will be so much better performed by you.

Believe me very
Sincerely your friend
Cammack

J. M. Lemaire Esq.
Jr.

June 4 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the French Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of May 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross weight after Melting	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions
	Ounces &c.	Ounces &c.	Dollars cts	Dollars cts	Dollars cts
Gold:					
U.S Coins (old Standard) Say	19 47	18 724	348 35	348 35	
Foreign Coins "	111460	107259	19953 60	19953 60	
					20301 95
Silver:					
Foreign Bullion Say	3232 45	3107 66	2879 59	2165 10	
Foreign Coins "	55736 91	55501 81	64583 84	64583 84	
					67463 45
		Total deposites			87765 35

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Silver:					
Half Dollars, Say	134.500	67250	00		
Quarter Dollars "	58.400	14.600	00		
Dimes "	110.000	11.000	00		
Half Dimes "	119.000	5.950	00		
				98800	00
		Total Coinage		98.800	00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office 31st May 1840.

A. McCammack
Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint N. Orleans
June 6 1840

Sir,

I have rec.d from Mr Cammack, a note, a copy of which I now enclose, together with the letter for you, mentioned therein. In my letter of the 2nd inst. accompanying our Statement for May, I observed that I would in a short time communicate to you the cause why no gold had been coined for some time at this Mint, and other information in relation to our affairs.

With regard to the gold coinage, the matter stands as stated by Mr Cammack. "Several melts have been made of gold which have been returned uncoined," the metal having on every occasion proved too brittle. But there is a difference of opinion between the Melter and Cowes concerning the cause of that brittleness, each contending that the originates in the department of the other. Mr Riddell is persuaded that he might be good. He says, that they are annealed by Mr Cowes at too high a temperature (all that is required being a dull red heat) and that being

them immersed in the pickle, and withdrawn cooled, they are consequently brittle.

The Comrs, on the contrary maintained, that they are not well toughened, and that they should be so made by the Melter, and not to be affected in the cooling by any heat that is not beyond the cherry red; which he says is several degrees higher than that now fixed upon by the Melter.

I am myself unable to determine between them, and am convinced that you are the only person to whom I can appeal, that would, in coming to a decision yourself, & in furnishing me with such information as would enable me to do so, give satisfaction to both parties. I could send you an eight pound ingot selected indiscriminately by me from the number retained by the Melter and myself to be coined, which you could settle the question very soon.

An occurrence had recently taken place between Dr Riddell, and a person of the name of M Carthy who was employed in his department which I think it my duty to lay before you, as it may, before its consequences are over, interfere with our operations.

M Carthy had a quarrel a few days ago with Dr R. and left the Mint. A report of which he was the author, that the Melter was a dishonest man, and would prove himself a defaulter, if called upon to settle his accounts soon reached the ears of his Superintendent. They applied to me for information, and desired that I would suggest what course they should pursue. I advised them to call on Dr Riddell, to communicate to him what they had heard, and to state that it was in justice to himself as well as them he should, without delay, throw open his vaults to the Treasurer in order that he might examine whether their contents corresponded with the amount with which he was charged. Dr Riddell made not the slightest objection, and you will find the result in a certificate hereto enclosed, issued by the Treasurer on the day on which the examination was made, and which may be inserted in three newspapers, in which the report above mentioned had been previously noticed.

On the day succeeding, Dr Riddell went to the lodgings of M Carthy and whipped him severely. He was accompanied by his brother who is the foreman of his Department, and a Mr Moore one of his men. He took them with him, he says, merely to prove that he was without any kind of weapon. The three were shortly after brought before an Officer of Justice, who upon

RG104 Entry 11

hearing the evidence, Committed them all for trial before the Criminal Court.

The punishment for assault and battery is fine, or imprisonment, or both at the discretion of the Court. In case of the conviction of either of the Watchmen, their places may easily be supplied, but what are we to do if the Matter and Report should be continued to such an imprisonment as would materially interrupt the operation of the Mint? I will apprize you immediately of the result of the trial.

We have received this day from the Secretary of the Treasury a box containing,

1 1/2 Dollar Coin Die
1 Dime — do do, and
1 1/2 Dime — do do.

I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

J. Mc Kenney
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director &c
Phila

Mint of the United States,
June 8. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Supt. of the Br. Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank as heretofore. This is the last box that will be sent at present. The receipt, at the Department, of three boxes, sent on the 27th, 28th, and 29th ults., has not yet been acknowledged.

R. M. P.
Director

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Branch Mint, New Orleans 8th June 1861.

Sir,

My incessant devotion to duties in the Mint has so far prevented me from giving the least attention to Texas plants since I wrote you last. Had I known beforehand how completely my time would be engrossed as Melter & Refiner, I should have declined the office. Nevertheless I feel an honest gratification on the success which has resulted from most of my plans and efforts. For instance:-

1. I no longer melt silver for ingots in the small 1600 ounce cast iron pots. Instead thereof I use a cast iron pot of similar shape containing 15000 ounces. The thickness of metal is two inches. The concave bottom is protected by a basin of wrought iron. The thick convex cast iron cover has a hole towards one side 8½ inches diameter, closed as in the small pots, for the purpose of charging the hot and taking out the melted silver. When the metal is fluxed and has been well and repeatedly stirred, we pour out an assay ingot, grant ten or fifteen minutes for the latter, mend the melt to title of a millième with alloy by adding copper or fine silver, stir again and take into the moulds. Thus I never fail in a melt by missing the standard, or at least so far I have not, having made six melts, equal to nearly 90000 ounces of ingots. All things considered I find this plan incomparably better than using the small pots.

2. Had I not better recover silver from the lowest assay grains by amalgamation? What think you of the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid, for detaching silver in the process of parting? Should Mexican bars be refined previous to parting?

The Superintendent of this mint has probably informed you that the coiner and myself entertain conflicting opinions in regard to gold ingots. It is our mutual request that the matter should be submitted to your

RG104 Entry 11

I find that gold from the separating room, unless carefully reboiled with fresh acid, generally contains traces of lead, antimony, or other base metals which render it brittle. This I toughen by remelting, alloying to wax standard, stirring, exposing to air, casting on nitre and sometimes sulphur, and skimming off the dross. If the melted metal be poured into rather cool ingot moulds, and these suddenly chilled from a high temperature, I find the ingots so brittle upon removing them as to be easily broken; but by subsequently annealing them at a dull red heat, they are rendered so tough that they may be bent double and pressed everywhere in contact with a sledge-hammer, without breaking or even cracking. The same ingots raised to a yellow heat, or to a temperature approaching the melting point of gold, and then suddenly cooled by being plunged in water or a weak acid liquor, are rendered comparatively brittle. Now the owner contends that the ingots should be cast with such qualities as to remain tough when thus annealed at any temperature; that is, no matter how highly heated, nor how suddenly cooled.

That gold is rendered brittle by sudden cooling from a high temperature, do I believe, an admitted physical fact. (Vide Silliman's Chem. ii. p. 350. (c)).

The last two melts of gold only (Nos 13 & 14 Values) have been cracked in rolling. I have in my vault a rolled ingot of the first of these two melts, which I succeeded in annealing and rolling in the presence of the owner, without sign of faults and which now bears the severest trials of toughness. The balance were highly heated, and suddenly cooled and cracked the first time passing through the rollers.

If I am wrong in opinion or deficient in knowledge of the matter, I beg as a personal favor, and as a quick action of similarity in your taste and former pursuits, that you will frankly set me right and communicate such useful information as your superior knowledge and long experience enable you to do. I will thank you also to refer me to such printed works as contain the relevant information.

Your Refiner & Refiner is Dr. McClintock I am told. I am more than half inclined to claim him as an old acquaintance, made in Pittsburgh in the Winter & Spring of 1832, when I gave a course of lectures in Chemistry in Lombaldini's Museum. At best, I should feel most fortunate, if through your influence I could now establish a correspondence with him; thus profiting by his greater experience in melting and refining.

In conclusion I must allude to a subject rather unpleasant. Contrary to the dictates of my better judgment, but from motives of charity, near the first of April I admitted to a laborer's station and pay in my department Mr. John McCarty — last an apothecary in Cork, Ireland — more recently a student in our Medical College. He became greatly dissatisfied because I did not find him worthy of promotion. For a few days he took upon himself to promulgate the most slanderous falsehoods in relation to my official doings. He said he wrote a letter to you on the subject. As the slander or libel will undergo a legal investigation, I have to request that you will transmit to myself or Mr. Kennedy if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer.

May not gold ingots be pickled by myself and not by strangers, previous to being formally delivered to him? I do not exactly understand your instructions in that respect.

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I copy from my books the amount in ounces of silver ingots, delivered each month this year to the Treasurer. By this you will see we are not retrograding.

Months	Ounces	dwts
January	37105.	45
February	63762.	70
March	88316.	35
April	106341.	70
May	138349.	25

PAID

Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Hon. R. J. Walker Secretary

The amount for May would have been in excess to 143 532. 25, had six drafts of April and May ingots been received, dated 24th May.

Respectfully Your
Obt Servt
A. L. Riddell.

Dr. R. M. Patterson

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
June 10. 1840.

Sir.

Your letter of the 8th has come to hand. The box of dies referred to has also been received and forwarded to N. Orleans.

The boxes transmitted by you on the 27th Dec. & 29th ult. were also duly received and forwarded.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury

Sec. of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 9, 1840

Hon.ble Levi Woodbury
Sec.y of the Treasury

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a document exhibiting the situation of our Branch Mint, and to call your attention to that part of it which relates to the Government Deposite.

In 1838 and '39 before this Mint commenced the coinage of gold, the portion in silver, of that fund, was, by the payment in silver coins to depositors of gold bullion, reduced to the sum of $50.197,09.

I submit to you whether this amount is not too small to admit of our making payments with that regularity and promptitude which can alone secure heavy deposites for Silver coinage. We owe now but for two Silver deposites made previous to

the first of this month, and three small ones only have been made since.

I therefore suggest to you the propriety of adding, to the U. S. Silver deposite in the Branch Mint, from One hundred, to One hundred and fifty thousand Dollars. This increase would have the effect not only of insuring that promptness in the payments which is so very desirable, and of inspiring additional confidence in the Institution, but also, no doubt, of inducing larger importations of Bullion, and enabling the Mint to come, in the annual coinage much nearer to the expectations of its friends. These expectations cannot I fear be fully realized, with our present complement of men. The capacity of this Establishment is put down by Mr. Beaston at $3.000.000 per annum. If I am correctly informed this amount is not exceeded in the Philadelphia Mint, with the advantages resulting from a Government fund of $500.000, and an allowance of between fifty and sixty workmen. Our public deposite is, as you know, little over one fifth of that amount, and our number of Workmen is limited to twenty.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Your Obed. Serv.

Dft. Wm. M. Kinsley Supt.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 11th 1840

Sir,

I have requested of Mr Woodbury an increase of our Government deposite. As you will doubtless be consulted before any action is had upon the matter, allow me to solicit your support of my application, and to inclose a copy of my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as of the document therein mentioned.

Should you be of opinion, that an addition to our present complement of workmen, would confer on our Institution advantages commensurate with the expense attending it, you would also lay us under great obligations to you by advocating it, the additional number to be, of course, determined by yourself.

I am Sir, with great respect
Yr. obedt. Servt.
R. M. Patterson

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philada

Sept.

I have just rec'd. your letter marked "official" and will send you an early reply.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
June 13 1840.

Sir,

From additional notices in the N.O. Sun of the 10th & 12th inst., and other sources

P.S.- In connection with this subject, it may be proper to mention that I received, a few days ago, a letter from Dr. John MacCarthy, who, it seems, was employed in Dr. Riddell's ~~employment~~ before, and who makes a bitter attack upon that officer. As it appeared, however, that Dr. MacCarthy was himself under suspicion, and was greatly irritated by this circumstance, and as you must necessarily have been acquainted with the whole affair, I did not think my interference in the case called for.

P.P.S. In addition to three boxes of dies sent to you as stated in my letter of the 22d ult., a fourth, containing one pair of quarter dollar dies, was sent to the Bank, on the 8th inst.

Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

June 13 1848.

Sir,

From editorial notices in the N.O. Sun of the 30th & 31st ult., and other such sources, I learn am pained to hear of evil reports, and suspicions, and investigations going regarding the Melts & Refining of your Mint, which it I pray you to let me hear from yourself — the only legitimate source to which I can look for information, — the truth as to a matter in which I have so deep an official interest —

&c

R. M. P.

dition to those boxes of this Sent to you
the Bank, on the 9th ult.
letter of the 28th ult., a fourth, con-
of Quarter Dollar this.

Kennedy, Esq.
Mint
Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Copy

Branch Mint New Orleans

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury

June 13th 1840

Sir,

That injustice may not be done to myself, I feel it incumbent on me, to address you at this time.

For some weeks past no gold has been coined in this Mint. The last three melts of Gold ingots have been cracked in the coining department in rolling — and yet by proper annealing I found no difficulty myself in rolling, successfully, samples from each melt. Knowing, and being now able to establish, that the ingots have all been of good quality, I have made a written request through our Superintendant, to be permitted, to use for an hour the annealing furnaces and gold rollers in the coining department, that I may so far prepare the gold ingots of the next melt, by partial rolling before delivery to the Coiners, as to preclude the possibility of their being cracked in subsequent operations, pledging myself to send you my resig-
nation

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nation, if I fail in rolling the ingots well. The coiner declines my request.

The matter in its commencement was submitted to Dr. Patterson, whose reply we wait, and whose decision I hope will remove all difficulties.

I should have been loath to trouble you thus, were I not well assured that secret efforts are being made to prejudice my standing with the Government. The inclosed* certificate, with the remarks preceding it, cut from one of our city papers, will give you an idea of some of the groundless measures taken against me. Conscious that I have well and faithfully performed my duties, I have but this single request to make, that if complaint seemingly worthy of your attention, be proffered against me, I may not be condemned unheard, nor without due inquiry. Pardon me for adding that my time for twelve years past has been almost exclusively devoted to Chemistry and the Natural Sciences. In 1836 I was employed to make a geological reconnaissance of Ohio.

For a while I held a professorship in the Cincinnati Medical College; and for four years past have been Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Louisiana. For my standing and ability I can, among many, call the following men to vouch: My old preceptor Prof. Elmos Eaton, Troy, New York, Prof. B. Silliman, New-Haven, Prof. John Torrey, New York, Profs. J. B. Rogers & Prof. Aikin, Baltimore, Dr. S. G. Morton, Philadelphia, Dr. J. P. Heldreth, Marietta, Ohio, Dr. Daniel Drake & Prof. C. W. Short, Louisville, Kentucky; with most of whom I now maintain a correspondence.

Very respectfully,
Your ob't Serv't,
(Signed) J. L. Riddell,
Melter & Refiner.

* Treasurer's certificate as to examination of the vaults, &c.

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U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 15. 1840

Sir,

In your letter of the 28th ult. you ask for "the exact truth" of the circumstances attending the discharge of Ernst and Levick - You will find it in the following lines.

Ernst before he was employed by Dr. Riddell, distinctly understood, and agreed that he was to be taken on trial, subject to dismissal, if he did not suit, and, at a salary of $40 P. month, until such time, as he should be admitted as a regular hand. He had been with us but two weeks, when he went to the Comr, with many causes of dissatisfaction, among the rest, that he was to receive $40, P. month, but that in reality, the difference between that amount and $65, at which he was to be put down upon the pay roll, was to go into the pocket

of Dr. Riddell himself. The Coroner very prudently replied, that these were matters with which he had nothing to do, and that the officer, before whom such complaints should be laid, was the Superintendent. Upon hearing this from Mr. Tyler, I sent for Ernst, who repeated his story to me, with this variation, that the $1.25 p. da. which were to be for the benefit of Dr. McCarthy (one of the Workmen) instead of the Melter and Refiner. He further assured me, that there were two others owed in the Mint, viz, this same Mr. Carthy, and a Mr. Cahill, another workman in the Melting department, between whom and Dr. Riddell a positive understanding existed, that the latter was to appropriate to himself a part of their wages. I had them both before me. Cahill was much surprised at my communication. He not only denied the fact that he was called upon to corroborate and stated that he had always received every cent of the wages for which he had contracted, but appeared to be mortified and, in fact expressed himself so, that any one should for a moment suppose, that he would submit to any such imposition. He said further that he had no fault to find with Dr. Riddell who had in every respect, always treated him in a proper manner. McCarthy also bore testimony to the correctness of Dr. Riddell's sentiment to him. He said he had never heard that he was to receive any proportion of the wages of Ernst, but admitted that he had agreed with Dr. R. that fifty cents a day of what he was himself to get should be given to a Mr. Nixon, who was employed in the Assay department for instruction &c. from him in the Separating room. This arrangement, as you may suppose, I did not allow to be carried into effect. Of this impropriety Dr. Riddell was very soon convinced & matters were all set right long before the expiration of the month, when every man rec'd the full amount to which he was entitled.

Two things are in my opinion very clear. In the first, it never entered the mind of Dr. Riddell, to make any thing himself out of

RG104 Entry 11

the earnings of his men, and in the next as the plan by which he proposed to himself to communicate them for leaving McCarthy here to separate by, was above board, and consequently undisguised, it was contemplated in entire ignorance of its impropriety and without any intent to wrong the Government - I am inclined to think that the discretion of Court or jurabol in the circumstances that his wages were the Lowest in the Department in which he was employed - The Matter and Refuse [illegible] had also [illegible]

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Philadelphia

NEW ORLEANS
JUN 16
LA.

= caused in him a disposition to rattle / having come to the conclusion that he did not suit dismissed him - Nothing at present occurs - I will relate Mr Carrick's conduct in my next by

Very respt J. G. Bowman

J. McKenney

R. M. Patterson
Director &c.

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans June 15th 1844.

Dear Sir

Mr Kennedy applied to the Secretary of the Treasury sometime ago for funds for the Contingent & Ordinary expenses. A warrant was sent for 6782 dollars only, and our Cashier stated, in his letter, that he balanced him against me, as, including suspended items, 9.390 dollars. An explanation came with the honorable Secretary's letter, and I am very much distressed about the matter. I have paid nothing without a warrant from the Superintendent, and I cannot imagine what has been suspended: and Mr Kennedy has written to know. And, as soon as we hear from there, I may require your kind advice in getting things put straight again, and which, I trust, I will not apply for in vain.

Annexed is a memorandum of moneys received, paid, and due, in this quarter - by which you will see that we have not enough to meet the demands that will be made on us at the end of this month. The distance we are from Washington, the irregularity of the Mails, and the necessary delay in issuing a warrant, require us to apply for money a least four weeks before wanted. And I have consequently usually asked something more than

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needed in the quarter, so as to pay wages for the first month of the ensuing one. I am now at a loss what to do.

I take the liberty of inquiring from you, if the Treasurer is not required to pay all demands made on him under a warrant from the superintendent? & does not the warrant of the Superintendent relieve the Treasurer from responsibility?

The number of men employed in this mint now are as follows

Laborers ——— 20.
Night Guards ——— 4.
Porter & door keeper ——— 2.
To saw wood, carry coal &c ——— 1.

The law permits 20 laborers, but I understand the additional number has been sanctioned in Washington to be charged for under the head of contingencies.

I assure you, my dear Sir, that I am most anxious to keep my accounts in perfect order. & wait with great impatience to hear what is expected. I will be very much obliged to you if you will write to me with any suggestions that you think will be useful. I am with assurances of respect and esteem, yours faithfully.

A. Dallas

Wm. T. M. Patterson

Amount balance in my hands on
1st March 1840 ——— $ 629.70
Less this sum in hands of Wm Patterson — 618.53
5079.17
Received Amount Treasury draft ——— 6381.-
12459.17

Paid
Contingent expences, including 2101 Coal
Thomas Liddell, Commissioner — 2312.14
Wages to Laborers in april — 1631.12
do in May, Night Guard — 2218.61
Building & Machinery ——— 346.25 = 7508.12
Leaving available $ 4951.15

To be paid at the end of this month.
Salaries of officers & Clerks — 3225.
Wages, night watch 1st June — 2218.61
Bills against the mint already
presented ——— 2410.26
$ 7853.17

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
June 16 / 40.

Sir,

I have received Mr Bethune's despatch of the 12th & 2d inst., but, I presume, by yesterday's mail from your Agent, and containing Mr. Cammack's certificate regarding Dr. Riddell's account as Melter & Refiner. This is well. But I am also informed, indirectly, that the correspondence of a gentleman not connected with the Mint, of an outrage subsequently committed, and in which Dr. Riddell and one of your workmen Mr Wood were parties. The story, as related, is that one of Dr. Riddell's men, a Mr Carthy, having taken offence at his principal, had made complaints which gave rise to the investigation into Dr. Riddell's affairs; and, that, in revenge for this conduct, Dr. Riddell, accompanied by his brother & Wood, armed with clubs, & daggers or Bowie knives, and had attacked Mr Carthy's chamber, and beaten him severely. The end of the story is that Dr. Riddell, and his brother, and also Mr Wood, had been

RG104 Entry 11

bound over to the criminal courts for this assault, and that the operations of the Mint must be suspended.

I hope that this shocking report is not true, or at least, that it is exaggerated. It can hardly be possible that I should not have your respect of the matter before this letter reaches you; but, in any event, I shall am most anxious to know the truth, and to hear it from you. It is a case that deeply concerns you, for it involves the reputation of an institution under your immediate charge. The practice of a wretch to break open in support of private character must be considered by all moralists as equally wicked and absurd; that becomes then can be used, when the same wretch is sworn for the support of public character, and is applied to a subaltern. I know not what code can justify it.

P. S. Your report for last month has duly received

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq
Asst. Br. Mint
C. C.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
June 18/40.

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., giving me information, in an authentic form, which my late correspondence will have shown you that I was seeking with great anxiety. I do not hesitate to say that I most heartily disapprove of Dr. Riddell's conduct in the affair of Dr. McCarthy, and that I should deem it my duty to represent it to the Department government. It is for the President to determine what course to take in the case, and it is possible that it may not lead to the removal of the officer in question; but if it should, it will be of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in finding a successor, and I deem it right, therefore, to ask you to let me hear from you, in confidence, if you know of any individual competent to fill the station. A practical acquaintance with the business is not to be expected, but an acquaintance with chemistry is. I should think that any gentleman who had had a good classical & medical education might soon become acquainted with the

RG104 Entry 11

practical
~~skilful~~ knowledge upon most of the
Coin present Mint & Refining here has no other
ground to build upon; and the beam, is at that
time, a competent and ~~skilful~~ officer. I
consider it of great importance that all
persons to be attached to your Mint should
be acclimated to the Climate, at this must,
of course, be looked to if a new appointment
is to be made.

both
I am advised by our Old and by our
present Coiner, that there is no difficulty
whatever in the annealing of gold. There is
not the same inconvenience from
danger of cracking, which
occurs in Silver. If the gold ingots could
not to which you refer could not be rolled
without cracking, the fault must have been in
the preparation of the metal by the alloy, and
not in the annealing by the Coiner. I should
deem it quite unnecessary to send a specimen
ingot here; but, if the parties desired it, I
do not object to this course.

Please to inform Mr. Cammack that I
will write tomorrow, on the subject of his letter.

R. M. P.

Jno. M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. U. S. Mint
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 19. 1840

Sir,

I must apologize for the time that has intervened, between the letter and that of the 15th inst. - Private affairs of my own, requiring my undivided attention have made it longer than it should have been. I now hasten to give you the circumstances attending the discharge of Ernest, because he had made "accusations of a very grave character against Dr. Riddell" about which I was persuaded you wished to be soon satisfied -

Against Dr. Riddell [illegible]

say "Ernest has made accusations or complaints" not surprising - I do not see how under the facts of the case (as reported to me by Dr. R.) it could have been otherwise - Mr Levick has never been discharged from our Mint - He has been with the Coiner ever since he left the Melting department. Some time previous to that, Dr. Riddell had made an arrangement with Mr Tyler, [illegible] to take

RG104 Entry 11

the [illegible] vacancy in [illegible] Department. This he was led to do for the following reasons, in addition to Mr Leavitt's known [illegible] first, that he would prefer working in that Department. Leavitt's complaints about his wages, and his threats to leave, unless they were raised, was frequent. He had been sometimes a little careless in regard to Bullion and had refused to become responsible for deficiencies placed in his hands to melt". On one occasion Dr. Riddell charged the wastage (after a melt of gold) [illegible] greater than it should have been, and wanted [illegible] His reply was, that he would [illegible] of that opinion too, if he did not think "that Dr. Riddell knew what had become of the gold". It was, for the words of the Melter) Refiner (that) is what was mainly [illegible] induced him to say to Leavitt that he might consider himself discharged. Dr. Leavitt never said a word to me on the subject. His conduct, from good feelings towards him, Dr. Riddell had [illegible] at it worth while to communicate it to me, until after

I had rec'd. your letter of the 20th inst. [illegible] did he [illegible] Mr Leavitt himself [illegible] and when Mr Fowler asked my [illegible] to take Leavitt's [illegible] Department off [illegible] left the other, [illegible] question as to [illegible] had any complaints to make against Leavitt, his reply was in the negative.

Leavitt has in my opinion [illegible] no cause to complain. If that "insinuation" had been made known to me at the time the words were [illegible] saying it were uttered, I think it [illegible] not probable that his services would have been dispensed with altogether.

I am with great respect, Sir, Your obed't Serv't

J. Mitchell

P.S. We have [illegible]

1 Cop cont.g 1 pr. of [illegible] and 1 pr. of [illegible] Dies
1 do - cont.g 1 pr. of [illegible] Dies
1 do - cont.g 1 pr. of [illegible] and 1 pr. of [illegible] Dies
1 do - cont.g 1 pr. of [illegible] Dies

Mint of the United States
Dec. 19 1840.

Sir,

I feel it my duty to send you the enclosed copies of a correspondence regarding Dr. J. L. Riddell, the late assistant Assayer & Refiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans. You will see from it that my own information is as yet imperfect, yet it is sufficient to convince me that the charges of Dr. Riddell was an unfortunate one, notwithstanding his character as a scientific man, and the strong recommendations in his favor. He has quarrelled with his workmen, and has lost the regard of his fellow-officers, and he is giving bad ingots to the Coiner, and does not seem able to make them better. Lastly comes the affair with one of his discarded hands — McCarthy — which has brought disgrace upon the Mint, and compared him, and those of his men whom he has with him, to a criminal trial.

You will, I presume, judge it proper to lay this matter before the President.

R. M. P.

The Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury
&c &c &c

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
June 24. 1840.

Sir

I transmit enclosed a copy of a letter received from D. Riddell the Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans to which I invite your attention.

D. Riddell has been called on by the Department for explanations of the charges &c in the former communication.

Very Respy
Your Obed. Servt
Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

D. R. W. Patterson
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

(No. 1)

(Copy)

Coiners Office Branch Mint
New Orleans June 23d 1840

Lt. Joseph M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. U.S. Br. Mint

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of Saturday last, I am sorry to say that the gold angels will not work in the ordinary way. At the time of receiving the angels I was informed by the M. & R. that they had been annealed & hammered, and afterwards annealed & pickled by himself and that they were ready for rolling; upon his authority I thought I could roll some of them without first annealing them myself, but in attempting to straighten them from the crooks they had received in hammering one angel was accidentally broken, which led me to suppose the others were equally brittle. I then tried them by striking across the corner of the anvil, and some of them broke with almost the brittleness of glass. I then took 5 angels indiscriminately from the lot and passed them 6 times through the rolls giving them one 32d of a turn of the keys at each time starting them in length about 2 inches in all, at the very first time of passing them through, the cracks could be seen very plain, which continued opening wider until the 6th time, when they had not lengthened more than 2 inches notwithstanding the Director informed that they should be

RG104 Entry 11

successively rolled to the length of 9 feet 8 or 5 inches, before annealing the second time) from 4 or five more were then rolled in your presence with the same results, after which I received your note above mentioned. Not feeling satisfied to report upon them without trying some of my own annealing, I stated the same to you, and received in answer your request to make further trials. I then took 3 pigs and marked them No 1. 2 & 3 which I annealed and rolled as follows, No 1 not Lemmond annealed at nearly red: dipped in pickle, passed 11 times through the rolls, giving in all half a turn of the keys, and drawing about 6 inches in length. Cracked on the surface. annealed again at the same heat pickled. Rolled 8 times through, drawn 1 inch cracked too bad to finish. No 2 Lemmond by Mr R annealed at lowest red heat ~~as before~~ pickled. Rolled again 8 times drawn 1 inch cracked same as No 1.

No 3 Lemmond by my foreman, annealed at cherry red, pickled, and rolled same as No 1 & 2 annealed at the same heat as at first, pickled. rolled 4 times, cracked the same as No 1 & 2 rolled 8 times, cracked more at each time.

I then took 2 pigs and rolled them to the usual length of 30 inches, at which length the cracks on the sides had nearly disappeared or drawn into each other, but the ends were quite rough. I then detached ~~of~~ the worst and the best of the former ones annealed them at a moderate heat then rolled them to the proper length for drawing, the worst is entirely unfit for coins, the best would be subject to great ~~[illegible]~~ waste in drawing, and if it could be drawn to the proper weight many of the pieces would be imperfect. I wish you to examine the pieces with which the experiments were made, and if convenient I should like you to witness some of the experiments, as above. If then you should request me to make as much of it as possible into coins, I will cheerfully do so notwithstanding the great waste which must necessarily occur.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
Signed - B. B. Tyler
Coiner.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 24 1840

Sir,

In addition to the criminal prosecution which has been commenced against Dr. Riddell by Mr. Canby, the latter has also instituted a civil suit against him, in which he lays his damages at $5,000. The Court being on the eve of adjourning until November next, this civil suit cannot be tried for seven or eight months. Should it then be taken to the Supreme Court, more than twelve months must elapse before it can be finally passed upon. The trial of the criminal case is fixed for to morrow, but the judge has signified his determination, should Dr. Riddell be convicted, not to pass sentence upon him until after the judgment will have been rendered in the action for damages.

In my letter to you in which I mentioned the difficulty between Dr. R. and Mr. Canby, I feared that it might lead to a serious interruption of our operations, & I state

that I would immediately acquaint you with the result of the trial for Assault & Battery. It is therefore proper that I should now let you know that according to the present aspect of the matter its effect upon our Mint (if any it should have) will in all probability be trivial.

I am very respectfully
Sir,
Your obed. Servant

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director &c

J. Mitchell
Supt.

P.S. Allow me to correct an error. The Melt which led to the dismissal of Levick from the Melting Department was of Silver and not gold.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
June 27, 1840.

Sir,

I transmit herewith, for your examination a statement of the expenditures by Mr. Foutall and Mr. Cammack out of the appropriations made for the Building and Machinery for the Branch Mint at N. Orleans. These accounts having been settled by the proper accounting officers of the Department and not in this office, are now, for the first time, brought to my notice.

I will thank you to inform me whether the outhouses, which have cost very large sums were built under your direction or with your sanction, and if not, by whose directions they were erected and of what they consist.

There are also, some heavy charges for furniture, Marble Mantels &c. I will thank you to state whether these expenditures were authorised by you, and whether all or how many officers of the Mint reside in the buildings.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson
Director of Mint Phila.a

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States.
June 27th, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., explaining the circumstances of Ernst's discharge. It is a satisfaction to find that they correspond exactly with what I had supposed to be the true story, and had so stated in my letter making the inquiry. At the first I much doubted the propriety of Ernst's dismissal. — I have had some doubts as to Lewis, but I suppose your promised letter will remove them. Had not his discharge been commensurate with a desire to make room for another, and has it not also been the immediate cause of the defect in the gold ingots?

I have received from the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of a letter to him, of the 13th inst., from Dr. Riddell, on the subject of these gold ingots. It is a most extraordinary thing that a doubt

RG104 Entry 11

should exist as to the fact whether those ingots are sufficiently ductile for the operations of the Coins. We cannot understand, then, how a dispute can exist as to plain a fact matter. Bar ingots. It may be possible to roll down ingots, and yet they may not be possessed of that degree of ductility which may be fairly required by the Coiner. If they are defective, I think it may improbable, as I have already told you, that the defect arises from the annealing; which, on the other hand, it is by no means an easy matter to make ductile alloys of gold. The process followed by us, was explained in a communication formerly made but to your office, and which has, I presume, come into the hands of Dr. Riddell; but I will give you an general view of it, as may enable you to form a better judgment as to the merits of this dispute.

You have gold, either fine or of high quality, and which may be perfectly ductile, and you are to bring it down to standard by adding copper. Now it is a general rule that this cannot be done silently, without making a bubble mark. You have, therefore, to prepare an alloy, called tray pound gold, — made by adding to gold an equivalent of copper, and then melting it down, with successive doses of nitre, so as to remove portions of the copper and other oxidable metals, and produce a mark, which will vary in fineness, but which is set at about 700 to 750. This alloy is hard and rings like bell-metal, — the ringing being the test of good assay used at the Mint. The tray pound is then adjusted, and the proper proportion melted down with the fine gold, to make the standard metal required.

Now if Dr. Riddell has failed in making ductile standard ingots, this ought not, considering his want of experience, to be any great astonishment expressed, or any great blame attached to him. (The difficulty could then be removed by greater care, or, if the true process was not known to him, by asking information from this Office. I would not, for a moment, think of impeaching an officer, placed in the circumstances of Dr. Riddell, on such a complaint as this. But, if the ingots are really unfit for the Coins,

RG104 Entry 11

and Dr. Riddell refuses to change them, and insists that the Crime is not competent to judge of them, then he must bear the blame; simply if you can engage at this meeting. If however, you can satisfactorily to us, the Crime or to Mr. Thom. Perhaps, after all, the best way to settle this point, will be to send an exact to us, that has been refused by the Crime and approved by the others.

In my view of Dr. Riddell's Code, the most serious in it is the outrage committed on McCarthy. When I left this affair was first brought to my attention, — perhaps somewhat exaggerated, — it left the spirit of changing my own opinion of Dr. Riddell's character. I deemed it my duty to lay the matter before the Code to the government, and, in doing so, also mentioned the charge as to the ingots, on which, however, I do not place the same force, until it may be shown that the ingots being back, he has refused to amend them.

I know no objection to you showing this letter to Dr. Riddell.

P. M. D.

Rev. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Sup. St. Mint.
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans June 25. 1841

Sir,

It is matter of regret to me that the idea of the possibility of my neglecting to lay before you any information concerning any thing that you ought to know, should ever have been admitted into your mind. It may sometimes have happened to me to be a little tardy, but it has generally been under circumstances, which would, I think, had you been acquainted with them, have induced you to hold me excusable. My letter of the 5th inst. in which I represented the affair between Dr. Riddell and Mac Carthy, must have reached you very shortly after you had written your's of the 16th which I rec'd yesterday. The operation of the Mint have not been suspended. The trial took place on the day stated in my last. The jury found a verdict of guilty against the three, but recommended them to the clemency of the Judge, who sentenced them to pay costs, and nothing more. Dr. Riddell and his brother have given bond for their appearance to hear their sentence, after the termination

of the civil suit which I have already had occasion to mention to you.

I am extremely anxious to hear from you in relation to the gold. It was my intention at first, without waiting for that, to have called the Officers of the Mint together, and upon suggestions made by some of them during the operations, to have tried the possibility of working enough of it to pay off our gold debt which was small. I have been induced for two reasons to change my mind and to stand entirely by your decision.

First, Upon inquiry at the Treasury Office I learned that all our gold Certificates were liable to the Bank of Louisiana, of which Mr. Canmack is a Director and was informed by that gentleman that she was in no hurry for payment. We had then no immediate use for gold coin.

Secondly, I found, that there would have been a total absence of that spirit in which I had hoped our experiments would have been conducted. The Matter had already been left to you, by whose decision alone I was satisfied that both parties would be content to rest, and I was unwilling to contribute, knowingly, on either side, to an aggravation of feelings which, for the sake of the Mint should never have existed, and were growing stronger every day. I hope you will think I have acted prudently. Mr. Riddell insists as strongly as ever that he can make the gold, and complains of not having had an opportunity of establishing the fact, and relieving his official credit. I have told him that he is not both Melter and Coiner, that it is his business to deliver such gold as Mr. Dyer can coin according to the instructions and that should you not pronounce with a trial by which I can myself judge of the toughness and malleability of his gold. We will send you one either from the Bank or any other Melt returned by the Coiner as unfit for Coinage, and that then he will have ample justice. I am with great respect

Sir
Your Obed't Servant
J. R. McDonough
Supt.

P.S. Our last ... Director has ... Esq. ...

RG104 Entry 11

return of his despatches, and I have sanctioned it.

I cannot disguise the fact that we do not get along as harmoniously as formerly. Our Mint appears to be <u>paralyzed</u> to breed (with no great interruption) within its walls, feelings of productive of any thing but tranquility and peace. Should the settlement of this gold question not bring with it such a change as will make my office less disagreeable to me, than for some time, it has been, much as I would regret to dissever official relations with one by whom I have uniformly been so kindly treated, no other alternative will be to resign it.

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans June 26th 1840

My dear Sir

I write to you this morning and have since thought it proper to communicate to you extract from a letter which I have received from Mr Biddle dated at Washington - it is as follows

"I find that strong efforts have been made to prejudice
"you here, but that no effect has been produced,
"especi upon our Senators especially Morton -
"I am satisfied, from what fell from Morton,
"that the chief source of the representations which
"by the by I believe are exclusively confined
"to the charge that you are a violent whig &
"a bitter enemy of the administration) made
"against you is some person or persons about
"the Mint. I do not anticipate any difficulty -

This secret accuser has done me great injustice because he has stated that which is not true - and I advise you of this to put you on your guard against any reports that may reach you; and to enable you to answer any enquiries that may be made from Washington.

It seems that some restless spirit haunts the walls of this mint, which, while it be not layed, will never permit peace and harmony to exist within them.

I am, with great respect,

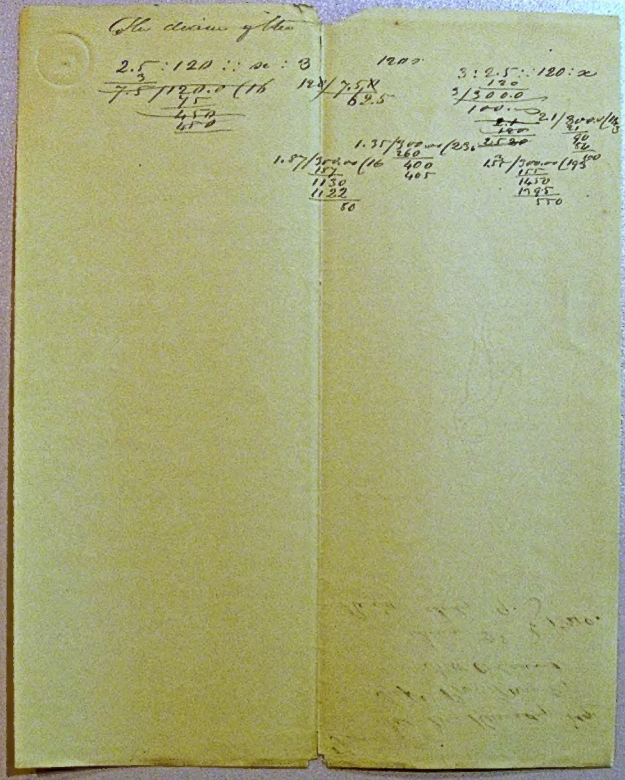
Your faithfull & obt Servant

H. Cammack

To

Dr R. M. Patterson

RG104 Entry 11



RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans June 28. 1840

My dear Sir

I received yesterday a letter from my friend Mr Riddell who was at Washington City, in which he says the Comptroller had informed him that the delay in settling my accounts proceeded solely from the irregularities in the accounts of Wm Kendall, the late Treasurer, but that it would very soon be regulated.

I feel much relieved by this information and hasten to advise you of it.

I can close this quarter's accounts without any more funds by leaving some of the claims over for awhile, and with the quarterly accounts I will get Mr Kennedy to send a requisition for more funds.

Our Camage for this month will be less in amount, than we anticipated owing to the fact that we have done nothing yet in Gold.

I am, with great respect
Your faithful Servant
H. Eckamander

To Rob. Patterson Esq

New Orleans June 28. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr Kennedy showed me yesterday a letter received from you, written in consequence of an exaggerated report of an assault on John McCarty having indirectly reached your ears. The particulars — McCarty being at the time employed in the Mint, were brutally assaulted with clubs, bowie knives &c, and that the wound had stopped in consequence of the offending party's having been bound over to keep I quote from memory, and may be hardly incorrect.

In consequence of the inquiries you make of Mr. Kennedy, I deem it my duty, thereby remarked to lay the leading circumstances before you.

I appointed you in my last. That in consequence of his persevering importunity, and from charitable considerations, I had admitted McCarty to a laborer's station in my department. He became deeply disgusted because I found him unworthy of promotion, and implicated himself and others in plots to injure me. Having been a student of our National College, I was loath to discharge him, but earnestly and repeatedly advised him to find some other employment. He was well aware I had lost confidence in him. On the 26th of May at noon, refusing to file a time, he quit work informing me that he no longer considered himself as belonging to my department.

RG104 Entry 11

He then set about publishing in the community the worst slander he could invent. He made statements to my neighbors, which determined me to enforce my assault & imprisonment. He then caused the publication in the Sun Newspaper which You have seen, heading it "Another Impudent attempt at Bullying & Defrauding" That his conduct was inexcusable and aggravating in the extreme, will appear by the following written statement of Dr. James Jones, one of my Securities — a gentleman of high standing. Immediately after leaving the Court, Macarty called on him and assured him

"that there was one wretch he proved to be a great knave by reason of the incompetency and dishonesty of the Matter on Reference — that he never made a suit without losing several per cent of metal; and that he had appropriated to his private use and sold at a premium, a large amount of the coin and bullion intrusted to his charge. Inform that said Riddell was a defaulter; a thief incompetent and a coward. — That he had challenged said Riddell to the field and made his ears hang like a dog's: and that it was his intention to use every means in his power to disgrace and drive him out of Mississippi. That it was a fact well known to him that said Riddell had stolen ashes &c. containing a valuable amount of silver belonging to the estate of Maxwell. and that he also knew that said Riddell had killed his wife by bad treatment, and attempted to defraud and cheat his minor brother in law of his property."

It is perhaps to be regretted, that public opinion in this climate, as you are doubtless aware, sanctions, and under similar circumstances requires, a resort to personal chastisement for slanders like the above, so base, so palpable, and so utterly unfounded in truth. Mc Carty was no longer connected with the press. The Medical College of which faculty I am a member, had conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon him, which alone gave him a claim to respectability. My friends, among whom were Messrs Kinney and Cammack, warmly urged me to chastise him; and this I did on the piazza of his boarding house, having in company with me two individuals who took no part, to mark that I neither used nor displayed any weapon more formidable than my flat hand. This was on the first of June. When I had thus rebuked the slanderer, my conduct was cordially approved by Messrs Kinney, Cammack, Hart and all who knew the circumstances and the tone of public feeling. It is true that Mc Carty's complaint I have since been convicted in the Criminal court of assault & battery, and am defendant in a civil action for damages based on the same. In the civil action a reconvention for the slander will be allowed; and mitigating testimony will be received in the Criminal court, where the judge declines pronouncing sentence until after the civil action

RG104 Entry 11

shall have been decided — say perhaps two years hence. The Judges of the Criminal court assure me, that as my prisoner is irresponsible at the mind, if after he shall have heard the mitigating circumstances concerning the slander which led to the assault, he shall then find it his duty to visit you with a severe sentence, he will do so by a fine instead of imprisonment.

Hon. R. M. Bateman
Chief Justice
of the Criminal
Court of the District
of Columbia

In conclusion then, let me remind you that the assault did not take place in the mint; — that Mr. Beverly at the time was 3 miles from the mint. — that my prisoner's crime was beyond human endurance, — that my friends and impartial persons sustain me in what under the excitement of the moment I did, — and that great allowance must be made in estimating a summary act required by the tone of public feeling

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
June 8th 1841.

Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. The explanation with regard to Lewis's discharge from Dr. Riddell's department is satisfactory. No officer could permit an indirect indemnification to be made against him, and Dr. Riddell's conduct seems to have been shewn great forbearance. In my letter of the 27th, I ask some questions whether the discharge of Lewis had any connexion with a desire to make place for Dr. Riddell's brother. It may be proper now to say, that the information desired in that question, and which now appears to be unfounded, was not suggested by any communication made from this bureau.

A correspondence which I have had with the Secretary of the Treasury shows that great discontent is felt at Washington at some of the amount, and at some of the items, of expenditures, under the appropriations for establishing your Mint. Among the charges, those for outhouses are very great. I am asked what these outhouses are, but am unable to answer. Probably [illegible] also play a large part in the expenditures, and it would be well to have that particularly attended to. The erection of

the buildings and the pressing of provisions did not fall under my control, and I have therefore been unable to give satisfactory answers to the Secretary's questions. I presume therefore that you will be called upon, though but little of the extraordinary complaints of our loss occurred under your agency.

P. M. P.
A

To
Wm. A. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 1. 1860

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose my Statement for June -
Your letter of the 18th ult: has been rec'd -
I will reply to it to-morrow.

Very respectfully
Yr obed't Serv't
J. W. Mackie
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of June 1840

Deposites

Kinds of Deposite	Gross weight before melting	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions
	Ounces dec	Ounces dec	Dollars cts	Dollars cts	Dollars cts
Gold:					
No deposits of Gold have been received this Month					
Silver:					
Foreign Bullion, Say	699 85	764 29	889 35	887 01	
Foreign Coins "	75858 85	75422 67	87764 41	87764 41	
					88651 76
Total deposites					88651 76

Coinage

Denomination	Number pieces	Value	Total Value
		Dollars cts	Dollars cts
Gold:			
No Gold Coins have been coined this Month			
Silver:			
Half Dollars, Say	83.000	41.500.00	
Quarter Dollars "	120.800	30.200.00	
Dimes "	190.000	19.000.00	
			91.000.00
Total Coinage			91.000.00

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1840
H E Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

Dr. The United States, in account with Horace C. Cammack, Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, his account of the ordinary receipts and expenditures, for the quarter ending the 30th. of June 1840. Cr

1840		Dollars cts
June 30	To amount paid from the 1st of April to this date, inclusive, for the incidental & Contingent expenses & repairs of the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked A 1.	5786 45
" "	" Amount paid from the 1st of April to this date, inclusive, for the Buildings & Machinery of the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked A 2.	542 75
" "	" Amount paid for Wages of Laborers employed in the Mint, as per Statement and Warrants marked A 3.	4927 12
" "	" Amount paid for the Salaries of the Officers & Clerks of the Mint, for the quarter ending this day, as per Statement and Warrant marked A 4.	3225 00
		14481 72

1840		Dollars cts
March 31	By Balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands as per account rendered to this date	6295 70
June 10	" Amount of Draft of the Treasurer of the U. States No 4675. for the Salaries of the Officers and Clerks, and Wages of Laborers for the quarter ending 30th June	6780 00
" 30	" Balance to new account	1356 02
		14481 72

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, June 30th 1840
H. C. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the Building & machinery of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons, from the 1st of April to the 30th of June 1840, inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent of the Marginal dates & numbers, viz:

1840	No.			
April 14	67	To John Moore	for completing 19 pairs of doors from 1st to 19th	146 25
June 19	99	" Peter Reilly	" making work at annual allowance	97 —
"	100	" P. J. McCabe	" do do do do	116 —
30	110	" Enos B. Cook	" sheet work for do do	69 75
"	111	" James Pearson	" do for do do	113 75
				$ 542 75

Branch Mint United States
New Orleans, Treasurer's Office,
June 30th 1840.

F. H. Hammond
Treasr

1,713.91
962.12
2,675.11

These are the accounts referred to in my letter of this day.

14 June 1840
H.H.

RG104 Entry 11

Detroit M. T.
July 6th 48.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 24th ult., giving me information as to the present state of the criminal and civil actions brought against Dr. Riddell. It is lamentable that any circumstance should have occurred among you to make such proceedings practicable.

On the 20th ult., I received a letter from Dr. Riddell, which I have failed to answer, because I ~~was~~ judged it more proper, ~~to~~ under the peculiar circumstances in which he is now placed, to correspond with you. Any proposition from me such in favor of ~~Dr. Riddell~~ this officer, and I am, on that account, the more disturbed at the scandal which has drawn upon himself and the unit. If, in the affair with Mac Carthy, he had acted ~~as an~~ only officially, — as we both his policy and his duty — he would not now be exposed to these ~~prosecutions~~ prosecutions. ~~In~~ Dr. Riddell's ~~letter, he~~ refers to a letter that Dr. Mac Carthy ~~has written~~ had written a letter to me, with regard to him, and he adds — "as this slander or libel will undergo

a legal investigation, I shall to request that you will transmit to myself, or Mr. Rhind if you prefer it, the original letter, as a copy will not answer. — I shall already told you that I did receive such a letter and I told you, at the same time, that I did not think my interference in the case called for, because it appeared that Dr. MacCarthy was himself under suspicion, and was greatly mistaken by this circumstance, and because you must necessarily be acquainted with the whole affair." — In fact, I should never have noticed the letter of MacCarthy at all, if it had not been for various reasons from other sources, and this must be evident to you from my letter of the 10th ult. ~~I have also stated that Dr MacCarthy's attack upon our interest communication to me did not relate in any to Dr Riddell~~. As to the request that I will send Dr. MacCarthy's private letter to be used in a trial for slander, I must decline it. I should consider such a course a breach of confidence; and it would be exceedingly annoying to me to have even my correspondence introduced into such an affair.

Dr. Riddell, in his letter, asks some questions ~~which it is proper that I should~~ to which I will beg you to convey to him answers the very answers. —

He asks, first, if he "had not better receive silver from the former refiners pending the negotiation." — I answer that I cannot recommend this proceeding. After the mutual profits are exhausted, it is best to sell the ~~sweep~~ remaining sweep to the smelters. The smelters at the Yorks take our sweep at our own valuation by assay, deduct 6% per cent for their profit, and pay the amount on the delivery of the sweep.

He asks, secondly, "what should be the comparative merits of nitric and sulphuric acid for dissolving silver in the process of parting." — On the large scale, where the platina vessels and other apparatus can be afforded, the sulphuric acid process is to be preferred; but, for the amount of work done at our Mints, it is best to continue the use of nitric acid. At least, I should not recommend any change in your operations, which would require so great an expenditure as this.

Dr. Riddell's third question is "whether Mexican bars should be refined previous to parting." — He means refined previous before parting, when this process is required.

RG104 Entry 11

Dr. Riddell asks, formally, whether "he may not pickle gold ingots himself, upon they are formally delivered to the Crime." I answer that he may do so, of course, if he obtains it. The pickling of the ingots is done by the Crime, only because he has the means at his command, but he is considered as acting for the Mint & Refinery.

R. M. P.
Dec.

Hon. A. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

July 6. 1850.

Hon. A. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
July 7, 1840.

Sir,

I enclose herewith, accompanied by the necessary vouchers, a statement of the account of your Branch, for expenses incurred here, during the quarter, ending on the 30th ult. There remains to your credit a balance of Seventeen 38/100 dollars. ($17.38).

My last correspondence with the Superintendent will give you all the information I possess with regard to your account at Washington. The difficulty, I presume, lies entirely in the expenditures under the appropriations for establishing the Mint, — which expenditures seem to have been continued to this day. A rigid scrutiny into this matter has been going on instituted by a Committee of Congress, in consequence, I think, of a Claim made by the Contractors for coined metal. No doubt you have been informed, before this time, of the state of the business. The blame, — if the cause of blame be established, — must fall most heavily upon the former Regents of your Mint.

To/ M. C. Cormack, Esq. R. M. P.
Treasurer D. M.

RG104 Entry 11

/Copy/

Melter & Refiner's Office
7th Oct 1840

L. M. Kennedy Esq
Superintendent

Sir,

I received yesterday for explanation from the Secretary of the Treasury a copy of certain charges made against me. They are as follows=

1st That you have unnecessarily quarreled with and discharged your Workmen - that you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers, and that you have not succeeded in preserving in the Mint the harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which the operations of the Mint must be retarded and the situation of the other Officers rendered unpleasant -

2nd That you are giving bad weights to the Coiner, and do not seem able to make them better -

3d That the day after the examination of the contents of your vault by the Treasurer, you went, accompanied with your brother and one of your Workmen to the Lodgings of Mr Booth,

RG104 Entry 11

to mention your name to Dr Patterson in connexion with any thing like an undesirable state of affairs in the Mint.

When I replied to his inquiries about the discharge of two of your workmen, My statement was confined to myself, and appeared on examining the report exactly as the circumstances of the case.

The second instance grew out of the contract between the Comer and you about the gold, and the manner in which that matter was laid before the Director, was submitted to and recognized by both that officer and yourself as correct.

The last was in obedience to an imperative duty of which I apprized you at the time. It was the representation of your affair with McCarthy given without a word of comment upon your conduct, and for reasons with which you were fully acquainted.

I cannot omit the opportunity now offered of assuring you, the expression of the deep regret I experience, at the misunderstanding which has existed for some time between you and Mr Eyster. The question appears to have grown into one of qualification, a skill, in which the pride of each is exclusively involved. Hence, each one of you, in the full conviction that he is thoroughly acquainted with his own business is unwilling to listen to any thing from the other in the way of suggestion. This is a state of things to which I can foresee no end, so long as we have any medal either to melt or coin; unless, a feeling which, with us all should be stronger than any other tie, a desire for harmony and peace throughout the Establishment, should bring about between you, a better understanding, founded upon a spirit of mutual concession.

I have never to any one given the slightest intimation that you had lost my regard - You have not done so -

Respectfully Your Servt.

Signed - J. R. McConnell

Sept 5

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
July 11th, 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., on the subject of the personal assault made by you on Mac Carthy, a workman discharged from the Mint. I still consider this attack with great disapprobation and regret, and I cannot but hope that, on a calm review of the matter, you also look upon it in the same light. I acknowledge, however, that your personal conduct of prosecution was my grief, and presents a feature, unknown to me before, and which gives a new aspect to the affair. I allude to the accusation which you say that he made against you, and which entered into close relationship of your life entirely disconnected with your official station. My letter to the Secretary will show that I considered it one of the most painful of your

assault on McCarthy, that it was made by an officer on a subaltern and in consequence of an official dispute. If now appears that the affair was not wholly of an official character. That it was it ab. ⁊, should have withheld your assent from a wish to illegal measures; even if you considered could exercise such assent in any case.

R. M. P.
J.

Dr. J. L. Riddell,
Assay & Refiner of
Branch Mint,
New Orleans

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

Sir,

In reply to your Note of the 7th I have to say, that for some time past, the business of this Mint, has not moved on with that success and good feeling among the Officers and workmen, that should characterize its operations. In relation to this, I have several times conversed with you, and have always, as you know, been most anxious and have used every exertion, to restore that good understanding and friendly feeling, which, unfortunately, had been disturbed. Feeling in this, I felt myself called upon, so I mentioned to you at the time and since, to address Dr. Patterson on the subject, which I did, through the Superintendent here. The following is extract of my letter & copy of what relates to yourself, and this is I believe, the only instance wherein I have had occasion to mention your name to Dr. Patterson, since I announced your arrival from Texas.

"I will here remark to you candidly, and I do it with "reluctance, that the Melting & Refining department in "its operations, has not reached the anticipations I had "entertained, in consequence of the recommendations so warmly "made by the friends of Dr. Riddell, nor has he succeeded in "preserving in the Mint, that Harmony and good feeling so "much to be desired, and without which, its operations must "be retarded, and the situation of the other Officers rendered

RG104 Entry 11

'unpleasant. As the case stands I have first brought D. Riddell's name
'before you for examination, which I did, without knowing him,
'and without his knowledge, I feel it incumbent upon me to
'apprize you of my disappointment.'

This was enclosed by me to the Superintendent in a letter from which the following is an extract.

'As I am actuated only by a sense of duty, I trust there
'will be no action in what I have written, and for this
'reason, I suggest to you the propriety of my letter
'being considered private; I do this with the more
'propriety, as you have intimated your intention of
'speaking to D. Patterson on this subject.'

In regard to the Gold Coyns about which there has been so much contention, I have studiously avoided to express an opinion except to yourself when asked; I now, as the most day, that I cannot agree with you in opinion, that they were cracked intentionally by the Coiners or his Workmen.

I entertain towards you no unfriendly feelings whatever, I am deeply pained that unfortunate misunderstandings have again disturbed the quiet of this Mint, and grieve that in the discharge of the duties of my Office, I am compelled to disregard personal considerations.

In conclusion, I have to state, that I have never said that you have lost my regard.

I am respectfully, Yr. mo. obt. Servt.
(Signed) H. Cammack

New Orleans
July 9th 1840

D.r J. L. Riddell
Melter & Refiner

3

(Copy)

Melter & Refiners Office
July 7. 1840.

H. Cammack Esq.

Sir,

I have received a copy of Charges preferred against me at Washington, among them one in the following words:—

'That you have lost the regard of your fellow Officers.'

I think it pained to suppose that you could not for yourself individually, give me the means of refuting it. Oblige me by doing it, or let me know wherein I have deserved a penalty so unwelcome to my desires and feelings.

Respectfully
Your Ob.t Servt.
(Signed) J. L. Riddell

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans July 12. 1840

Sir,

Dr Riddell, on the receipt of a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting for examination certain charges preferred against him addressed me two letters. Of these, as well of my reply thereto I have the honor to enclose copies, for I deem it proper that you should be kept acquainted with every step that is taken in this matter. Notes were also received from Dr R. by the other officers of the Mint. I deem it to be the intention of Mr Command (with whom I consulted about our affairs more freely than the rest) to furnish you with a copy of his reply.

It is, I apprehend, difficult to find a person, in every respect, suitable for the office of Melter & Refiner, in case of a vacancy. As yet I have been unable to do so. Should the President determine upon dispensing the present incumbent, it is my

them probable that you will know it some time before the removal is made. In that event should you think fit to reiterate your request, and allow me to consult with some friends who feel a deep interest in the success of the Institution, I will take all the pains in my power to recommend a proper successor.

Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you has been able to work about 1800 oz. of the last melt of gold - Dr. Riddell requests me to say that the process followed by you in the preparation of gold and which was explained in your Report in a communication formerly sent to the Mint, has never come into his hands." He has taken a copy of the "general view of it" which you have given in your Report of the 2d. Inst. I trust we shall soon get along better -

I yesterday rec'd a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the cabbing Marble Mantels &c. I am instructed to report under whose authority, and by whose direction the outhouses were built, by whom the expenditure for furniture were authorized, of what the furniture of each actually consists, whether the expenditures under all these heads were made with a due regard to economy, and to state whether all, or how many of the Officers of the Mint Reside in the building. You shall be furnished with a copy of my report.

I will conclude by asking (with your leave) a question which concerns myself. You know that I do not reside in the Mint. Do you think my presence in the establishment essential, during a certain length of time, if so how long, on every working day, whether it be necessary or not for that period, or so long only as is requisite for the purpose of = making myself acquainted with all my duties as Superintendent? You may possibly, some day or other, see the object in asking your opinion upon this subject. I am Sir with great respect

Your faithful Servant

J. Maclean

Supt.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director &c.

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans July 13th 1840

Sir,

I have the pleasure to own receipt of your letter of 26th ultimo .. There is no record in this Office of the expenditures made by Mr Gordon for Buildings, Machinery &c in establishing the Mint; By the books it appears that Mr. Forstall expended on this account about $46.000. I have expended $3436.07. as per accounts rendered, copies of which I will forward to you. There may be charged under this head, some small items, which, perhaps, properly belonged to some other appropriation. Not one dollar has been expended by me on out buildings, and only one Mantle piece has been bought for $60. under your authority, to make my appartments comfortable ..

I am sorry to find that the Secretary of the Treasury will not increase my deposite Account, on the contrary, he intimates an intention of drawing on the amount already here; You are aware, I believe, that we have $50.000 in Silver, and $72.000 in Gold ..

Our City, thus far, continues very healthy, tho' many persons apprehend a sickly season, owing to the rapid fall of the River .. A suspension of operations in the Mint, I hope, can be avoided, though a recess of a few weeks will, perhaps, be necessary for cleaning up, repairing, refitting &c which were entirely overlooked last year, during the confusion here ..

I am gratified to learn from you that this Branch has

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been gaining in efficiency and in credit. — Business here is nearly over for the season, and our deposits are falling off. In the month of June the deposits were 8500 Dollars, of which $7500 were forever from the Banks; on these we cannot depend during the hot months, when the Officers are often absent from the City. —

My Contingent accounts are ready, and will be forwarded tomorrow or the next day.

I am, my respectfully
Your faithful Servt.
F. Cammeach

Dr. Robt. Patterson
Philadelphia

P. S.

I enclose copy of a letter from Dr. Riddell and my reply, which Mr. Kennedy has informed you will be sent.

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

Comr's Office U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans July 16. 1840

To/ S. M. Manning Esqr
Superintendent
Dear Sir,

I beg to call your early attention to the repairs necessary in my Department.
The principal gearing of the Engine and Rolling Mill is much out of order, in consequence of the irregular setting of the Brick Work, upon which the Steam Engine and Machinery are built, all of which must be re-adjusted.
The Boiler-furnace requires a new front, and I think it would be a matter of prudence and economy to reset the boiler throughout as the bad bricks upon which they were first laid are constantly giving way. It is feared that the connecting pipe of the boiler has already been broken, which being fortunately discovered in time was removed without further damage. The principal item of expense will be the casting of the new front, for which there are suitable patterns at Bogle Lewis & Co's Foundry.
One third of the floor in the Rolling Room, as well as the whole of that in the Printing room, should be laid anew.

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I would also mention that we shall soon require more dime, half dime and half dollar dies, as the ones we are now using are the last we have, there are plenty of all other denominations.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
Signed, P. A. Tyler
Courier

N. Orleans
July 11th '40

Sir,

Having the honor of addressing you in relation to the Charges made against Dr Riddell of the Mint of this place, I should have done so before did I think the charges worthy of notice; — Knowing Dr R. for many years — having acted with him in the Faculty of the Medical College for four or five years, & seeing him in many relations, that one gentleman can see another, my opinion can be put in the same class with the estimate of any character.

I can then say, in brief, that standing as he does in relation to the fellow McCarty, I estimate the reader in which public is persons here, that Dr Riddell could not, in safety, have acted otherwise than he did. You, Sir, are fully aware of the nature of character, & could not say that however shameful, more vile appeared as a rabbler — a defamer of any opprobrious epithet than a fellow of his station, reputation, who not only assailed him through any private source, but did it through the public Press. Dr Riddell committed no wrong

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to the course it was thought best to pursue, though one of the last men to advise a resort to violence of any kind, I stated to him that it was his duty to his reputation & the safety of his sureties - first - to prove to the public that the charges were false & malicious libels, & next to promptly aid by having the whole of his bullion weighed & accounts examined; - & then, that as there was but one way of reaching the wretch & that was through his corporal feelings, it was due to him as a gentleman to give him - the idea of a libel or scandal was a mere mockery, I was joining the fellow an importance he feared not read any other way.

Thus was my conviction as to still that Mr Riddell in this community could have acted in any other way, I do only believe that he is completely justified in the opinion of all honorable men here.

I was astonished to see the handle made of it by his opponents, but it must have been perfectly misrepresentation to have reached the dignity of the matter by the Government! Any wretch however contemptible can "prosecute" but it belongs to our Courts of justice to convict or to justify.

Again the trouble I am giving you in calling your attention to this disgraceful charge & libel on me, Sir, that it is as unworthy of Riddell as of you may be

With regard to Mr Riddell's municipal qualifications, he has no superior in this community, & if he cannot always make himself as agreeable as others, it is because he has sacrificed the opinions of the day, & though he may mingle in the gaiety of the social intercourse, he has the solid & substantial social feelings of refinement acquirements & unquestionable integrity.

With the highest respect & esteem I remain

Your Obt

C. H. Barton

RG104 Entry 11

Treas. Dept. Branch Mint

Charleston July 20. 1840

Sir

I enclose a report upon from Mr Comer. He informs me that from three to four weeks will be necessary at his Department in completing the order. If Congress should be engaged to enable me to get the Gold in coin for the duties you would oblige me by letting me have it. In that event, I think it more than likely, from what has passed between him in conversation, that Mr Taylor will apply to me for leave of absence during that period. As I to grant it, upon his appointing some competent person to superintend the operations mentioned in his report. The object with him of a short visit to Philadelphia, would be to perfect himself in the operations of his Department.

I have written for Dr Riddell the answers given by you in your letter to me of the 6th inst. to his questions concerning certain operations in his department. I have communicated to him also your reply

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Treasury Department
July 25th 1840.

Sir,

I transmit herewith a communication received from D. Riddell, in reply to explanations of the charges preferred against him as Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans, together with the documents which accompanied it.

You will be pleased, after giving them a careful examination, to report to the Department whether in your opinion the explanations are satisfactory - and I will thank you to return the papers, as soon as may be, to the Dep.t with your views on the subject.

As it would seem from the papers, that the communication from your Mint to the Pr. at N. Orleans explaining the process pursued in making gold ingots was not received by D. Riddel - I would suggest that a copy be transmitted to him.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury
Sec. of the Treasury.

T. P. M. Patterson
Philadelphia.

Min[ister] of the United States
July 27, 1848.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., transmitting a communication from Dr. L. L. Riddell, in reply to, and explanation of the charges preferred against him as attache and Physician of the Brazil Mission at St. Thomas, together with the documents which accompanied it.

I have given careful attention to the documents, as well as to the communications received by you on the same subject; and I proceed to communicate to you the impressions left on my mind.

First, as to the attack made on MacCarthy, though I think it an unfortunate and ill advised, I must acknowledge that the provocation was very great, and Dr. Riddell's letter to you of the 28th of June, ~~(and to him the documents,)~~ presents ~~the~~ a fortune in the general unknown to me before, and which is calculated to soften the judgment on this score. I allude to ~~MacCarthy's assertion that Dr.~~ a slander uttered ~~made~~ by MacCarthy against Dr. Riddell, which was of an overwhelmingly personal character,

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(unconnected with the Mint,) and which was no doubt equally false and slanderous as it was slanderous and infamous.

As to the gold ingots, I have to remark that that they were not of a proper degree of ductility the detail of the trials made in them by the Crimes can lead to no other conclusion, than the simple fact that a sample than that they were not of a proper degree of ductility; and it now appears that Dr. Riddell was, in fact, not aware of the difficulty of making the alloys of gold ductile, and was not acquainted with the process to be followed for this purpose. I had suppose that all our former instructions were on file at the Old Bank Mint, but it seems that this is not the case. The omission, in the present case, has been already supplied, in such a manner which I presume to be sufficient, but a copy of the original instructions shall be also sent.

With Dr. Riddell's prayer for the discharge of his men, I have been made acquainted by the Superintendent, and I think that they were satisfactory.

It is a great misfortune to the Old Bank Mint, that the Master of the Crimes should be on terms of personal misunderstanding. Mr. Taylor is probably not blameless in this matter, but neither, certainly, is Dr. Riddell, whose conduct shows too much of a disposition. Mr. Cramond says of him — he has not succeeded in preserving in the Mint that harmony and good feeling so much to be desired, and without which its operations must be retarded, and the situations of the other officers rendered unpleasant." — Mr. Kennedy, in his letter to Dr. Riddell, of the 9th inst, says, "I cannot omit the opportunity — — —

thought the evidence shows that
On the whole, ~~I could recommend that~~
~~no further steps be taken by the govern-~~
~~ment in this matter.~~ There has been
proof of fraud and found judgment in Mr.
Riddell's favor, but I do not think this
remains sufficient cause for any further
action, in the case, on the part of the go-
vernment.

R. W. P.

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

P. S. I return you all the papers, as you desire.

Dec. 27, 1830.
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
July 27. 1840

Sir

I transmitted on Saturday, for your examination & consideration a communication received from Dr. Riddell accompanied by documents & explanations of the charges against him as Melter & Refiner at the Branch Mint at N. Orleans. And I have received a copy of a letter addressed to you by Dr. E. H. Barton which I send herewith. Lest the original should not have been received by you.

I take occasion to call your attention particularly to one point in the case. It is stated, that the Coiner has succeeded in coining some of the bars from a melt of Gold at first objected to by him as being too brittle &c. If such be the fact, and Dr. Riddells explanations in relation to that matter are satisfactory, does it not necessarily follow that censure attaches to the Coiner for his conduct.

I mention this in order to suggest whether in giving the case your consideration it would not be well

to:

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make some enquiries as to the competence of the Collector & his general fitness for the situation he holds &c — Some informal complaints have been mentioned to me against him.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Sec'y of the Treasury.

W. W. H. Patterson
Collector
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

July 28/ 48.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter of the 12th inst. and I received, at the same time, ~~from the Secretary~~ from the Secretary of the Treasury, Dr. Riddell's reply to, and explanation of, the charges preferred against him as to certain recent transactions at your Mint. I have given to the Secretary my report on this matter, and he will probably, at a very early day, ~~send to you the decision~~ let you know the course which government will pursue in the case. In the mean while, it may relieve your mind to be told, that, in my opinion, there will be no further action taken with regard to Dr. Riddell. And now, for what can be restored to your establishment? I know that you will spare no pains to bring about an end so desirable. You have had the discretion to avoid becoming a partizan in the disputes, and this circumstance must add great force to your official influence.

The large expenditures at your Mint building &c., for entries beyond the Contracts, have excited great astonishment. I know that many of them are unavoidable, but yet I fear that a due regard to economy has

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not always govern those who had the control of the appropriations. The greater part, if indeed almost the whole, of this responsibility must rest somewhere upon your predecessors in office.

You are to be yourself the judge of the time which it is necessary for you to spend at the Mint daily, for the full and satisfactory performance of your duties, and it must rest, ~~upon~~, to the same as that required of the officers who have authority to superintend, ~~and believe to guard against and~~ ~~the Mint prescribed~~ or deputies to receive and pay. It is impossible for me even to advise you as to the time that should be spent. This must necessarily be left to your own sense of responsibility. I hope that no intrigues are at work affecting you, or aiming to make your situation uncomfortable. God preserve your mind from false friends.

Yr. M. P.

Dr.

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. of Mint
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Philadelphia July 28th, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 17th inst., on the subject of the difficulties into which Dr. Riddell has brought himself.

The answer, I beg to assure you, is the first place, that my predispositions are strongly in favor of your friend. It was a real gratification to me to be able to recommend to the office which he fills, a man of science, — a successful teacher of chemistry, — a naturalist whose love of knowledge led him to search after it in the wilds of Texas.

On the examination of his duties, I am soon to believe that Dr. Riddell has shown great industry, zeal, and ingenuity. The faculties and many of the valuable qualities required to make a valuable officer. He would be all we could desire, if to these he added a conciliating disposition, — a willingness to yield something for the sake of peace, even where he considered himself right.

The resort to muscular force in proof of integrity of mind and character is a practice too utterly absurd for argument. It may be the fashion in some places and among some

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people, but it is not the less a moral deformity. Some savages wear a bone in the nether lip, and take pride in their fine [illegible] of dandyism: but a hanging lip is essentially ugly for all that. If any thing could induce me to make an attack upon the Bar, it would be my sense of a personal affront, and I should acknowledge my motive like a man, and risk the loss of character which might follow. Of the slanders uttered by Dr. McCarthy against Dr. Riddell, there was one reported to me, too horrible to be repeated, and which, in my judgment, was the only plausible excuse for the assault which was committed upon him. So far as this assault had regard to uncertain affecting Dr. Riddell's official character, I think it was ill advised, whoever may have been the advisers; and if [illegible] is yet to be found a civilized community which could think a man's character a whit improved by his beating another man.

You are mistaken if you suppose this affair was the only one that dictated the inquiries of government to Dr. Riddell. It may be gratifying to you, however, for me to [illegible] my conviction that no further action is likely to be taken in this case.

With great regard,
Yours very faithfully,

To
Dr. E. H. Barton
New Orleans.

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/Copy/

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans July 29th 1840.

Sir,

The delay which has taken place between the receipt of your communication of the 2d instant, and this reply, has been occasioned by having been directed to state whether the expenditures by Messrs Pintall and Commack, the late and present Treasurers of this Branch Mint, under the heads of Outhouses, Furniture Marble Mantels &c "had been" made with a due regard to economy. This required a knowledge on the part of the juniors paid for each item, coming under those heads and a consequent examination of numerous papers and accounts.

The result of that examination might have been more satisfactory, for this reason. The bills paid during the Treasurership of Mr Pintall do not, in many instances, specify the particular Department for which those expenditures for Mantels and Furniture were incurred. On the other hand no light on that head could be obtained from the present Officers of the Mint, they

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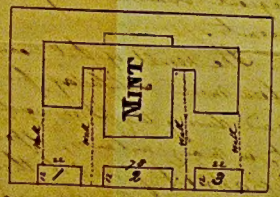
not having been in it at the time these articles were purchased, it has been impossible, in many cases, to identify them and ascertain the cost of each. All the information it has been in my power to obtain on the subject, I now have the honor to lay before you.

Out Houses.

They consist of three Building's, placed on the South side of the Square upon which the Mint is erected. They are composed entirely of Bath-Rooms and Privies, are marked on the following Sketch 1. 2. and 3, and were built under the authority of the late Sup.t Mr. Bradford.



Nos. 1 and 3 measure each 22 feet in length by 12 feet in width, are covered with slate, and contain, each, two privies and two bath rooms. They are also 10 feet high in the clear. No. 2 is 78 feet long and 12 feet wide, contains 5 bath rooms and 10 small privies, has also a slate roof, and is of the same height. The amount of the contract for putting up these Buildings, including the painting and the yard walls, the whole extent of which is 306 feet in length by 8 feet in height, was $4600. I do not think it was unreasonable. The sum of $1600. was also expended upon these Buildings, on Mr. contract with Bly & Blank, Plumbers, for Baths, Water Closets, Cisterns &c. / the whole lined with zinc / and a considerable length of leaden pipes. This work, which is of an expensive nature, was also authorized by Mr. Bradford, and does not appear to me to have been much urged.

Marble Mantels.

I find them to correspond, in number, with those charged in the Bills. There are also gotten 16, the cost of them ranging between fifty and ninety dollars. They all have their

grates, the price of which also varies from 30 to 55 ℔.

It cannot be denied that the original cost of Wooden Mantels, would have been considerably less, but as they are constantly requiring paint, and other repairs, I look upon the purchase of Marble ones as an economy in the long run. They also correspond better with the style of the buildings, and the prices paid for them I do not consider extravagant. The new, with one exception, purchased under the authority of the late Superintendent.

Preparing, at the time of my appointment, my own residence to one in the Mint, the apartments to which I was entitled, I gave up to Mr Cormack. That gentleman applied to me, to sanction certain alterations that he was desirous of making in the premises: Fearing that the magnitude of the expense to be incurred thereby, might be found fault with by some, I referred the matter to the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia.

Dr Patterson replied as follows:

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"I have been embarrassed by the application made
on behalf of Mr. Cammack for alterations in his
apartments at the Mint, to make an additional
of additional expense at this time. If you
deem the alterations necessary however, and
think they cannot be conveniently postponed,
I presume you would be justified in providing
for the comfortable accommodation of the
Treasurer, whose residence at the Mint is
very desirable for the public service."

Under this authority the alterations were allowed,
and the purchase of one Marble Mantel,
that constituting the exception already mentioned,
was permitted by me. St'o Just as $60.

Furniture.

I will beg leave to state, that this furniture
has been paid for, not out of the appropriations
for the "Building & Machinery" of the Mint
but has been charged either to "Contingent &
Incidental expenses" or to account of
"Apparatus Tools and Fixtures." You have
already on file in your Department the bills
for furniture that were paid by Mr. Dexter.

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Have paid on account of Purchases under that head, made since Mr. Commack's appointment were transmitted by that officer with his last quarterly accounts. I enclose a list of all the furniture now in the different offices in the Mint. Mr. C. has given the expenses, that were either unusually great, and so far as the furniture purchased under the authority of Mr. Bradford can be identified from its description in the accounts, the charges therefor do not appear to me to be unfair.

In answer to your last inquiry I have the honor to state, that all the officers of the Mint reside there, with the exception of Mr. Eckfeldt.

Very respectfully
Your obed. Servant
Signed J. Mitchell Supt.

Hon. Mc. Lean Secretary
Sec. of the Treasury

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List of Furniture in the Offices of the different Departments of the United States Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Superintendent's Office

One Bureau or Secretary
Six Mahogany Chairs
One Mahogany Office Chair
One Hat & Cloth Rack
One Carpet & one Rug
One Table with Cloth Cover
One portable writing desk
One Bust of Edward Livingston

Treasurer's Office

One Standing Counting House Desk, for Clerk
One Mahogany Desk, for Treas.r
One Mahogany Book Case
One Mahogany Table with Cloth cover
One Hat & Cloth Rack
One Mahogany Office Chair & one Desk Stool
Two Mahogany Chairs
One Mahogany Railing, to enclose the Desks & Book Case
Three Mahogany Cases for Collections of Coins
One Carpet & one Rug
Two Spittoons

Weighing Room

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Weighing Room

Two Desks and One Book Case
Two Tables
Four Mahogany Chairs
One Counter
Two Maps (Mitchell's Map of the World & Map of Scotland)
Two Settees

Miners Office

One double Office Desk (Mahogany)
Six Mahogany Chairs
Two Table (One with Cloth Cover)
One Counter

Melter & Refiners Office

One Furnace Stove, Shovels, Tongs & poker
One Office Table
One Mahogany Arm Chair
Four Mahogany Chairs
One portable Desk

Melting Room

One Table
One Desk

Inside Gallery

One dozen Cane bottom Chairs
Three Maps

Assayers department

Two Iron Stoves
Three large Cupboards
One large Desk
Two Small Common Tables
One large Solid table for assay balance &c
One dozen Cane bottom Chairs
One dozen Common Chairs
One Mahogany Office Chair
Oil Cloth covering for Weighing Room
One large Cistern
Stands for the Lamps Assay, Apparatus, Shelves &c

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Statement of the deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of July 1846.

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross weight of the melting	Standard Weight	Value before deductions	Value after deductions	Total Value before deductions
	Ounces dc	Ounces dc	Dollars ct	Dollars ct	Dollars cts
Gold:					
Foreign Coins, Assy	29476	25570	53151	53151	53151
					53151
Silver:					
Foreign Bullion, Assy	6420	7104	8266	8245	
Foreign Coins, "	55822	55610	64709	64703	
					64792 61
			Total deposited		70108 12

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value	Total Value
		Dollars ct	Dollars cts
Gold:			
Quarter Eagles, Assy	3400	8500 00	
			8500 00
Silver:			
Half Dollars, Assy	97000	48500 00	
Dimes, "	35000	3500 00	
Half Dimes, "	130000	6500 00	
	262000		
			58500 00
		Total Coinage	67000 00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office July 31st 1846

H. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

(Confidential.)

Mint U. S.
July 29 /40.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst.

I had received Dr. F. H. Barton's letter, and had answered it. The defence of an attack to murderous force in front of mad and ferocious integrity is too absurd to receive favor among certain portions of the community with which he associates, and may be dignified by the name of public opinion, but it is not the less a moral deformity, and will never receive my approbation, or (I am sure I may add) yours. — The absurdity to which I alluded in my communication to your Dept yesterday, was an assertion by Dr. MacCarthy that Dr. Riddell had been the murderer of his wife, who died not long since at the Mint. For so gross an offence, a second duel may be driven to take personal vengeance, and I should not be disposed to pass any judgment upon his conduct. I should but be to absurd, however, to think he had stained his character by it.

Mr. Kennedy, in a letter of the 12th inst., writes as follows: — "Mr. Tyler, I am happy to inform you, that I am able to make about $800

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of the last melt of gold. Dr. Riddell requests me to say that the process followed by you in the preparation of gold, and which was explained (in your words) in a communication formerly sent to ✱ this Mint, has never come to his hands. He has taken a copy of the general view of it - which you have given me in yours of the 2/7th ult. I trust we shall now get along better.

The first part of the extract requires explanation, which I cannot give. Neither the language nor the amount would lead me to think that the whole melt was alloyed. The quantity would make about a third or a fourth part of one of our melts. Was the remainder unfit for rolling? This could not with impunity be done. Neither the language nor the amount would lead me to think that the whole melt was alloyed. The quantity would make about a third or a fourth part of one of our melts. Was the remainder unfit for rolling? This could not with impunity be done. [illegible] the gold [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the

good officers; if they can only be encouraged to cooperate together in succeeding in bringing about this desirable end I have urged it upon the Secretary to take every occasion to bring about this most desirable end.

P. M. P.

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 29. 1840.

Mint U. S.

July 30, 1840.

Sir,

I send you herewith a copy of the directions, prepared by Mr. Peale formerly Melter & Refiner, for the management of gold deposits at the Branch Mints. This is the paper referred to in my letter of the 27th ult. It is probable that Mr. Maxwell obtained the copy for your Mint, and that it may not have found its place in your files, and therefore not have got into Dr. Riddell's hands. It is not as explicit as I had supposed, but it must be remembered that it was written as a memorandum for officers who had witnessed, at this Mint, the operations in detail. If there be any points on which Dr. Riddell wishes explanations or instructions, they will be cheerfully & promptly furnished.

In your letter of the 12th inst. you say,— "Mr. Sylvester, I am happy to inform you, has been able to work about $ 800 of the last melt of gold." It has become necessary for me to ask you some questions as to this matter. In the first place, then, I wish to know if this was the whole amount of the melt, and if not, what proportion of it. — Secondly, if any of the ingots of this melt were not rolled, Why were they rejected?

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Was done more durable than others? — Briefly, was this one of the Melts before rejected by Mr. Eckfeldt? If so, how did it happen that it again came into his hands, and was rolled? Was it rolled readily, or with difficulty? Was particular precaution necessary in the operations, — such as very frequent passing through the rolls, and very frequent annealing? Was this the Melt, the unsuccessful attempts to roll which are detailed by Mr. Eckfeldt? — Any other information that you may possess on this subject, I will thank you to communicate.

I ask these questions in consequence of a suggestion made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with whom, the rolling of a Melt of ingots which had been previously rejected, has been made a ground of censure upon the Coiner, against whom some informal complaints had been made to him.

Please to inform Mr. Riddell, that in casting quarter-eagle ingots, we are generally, if not always, under the necessity of stopping the work in the midst, opening up the hole, and annealing the heat of the metal, which has become too much chilled by the exposure. If this is neglected, the last ingots are spoiled.

Was this circumstance attended to in the Melt above referred to, — which I understand to have been of quarter-eagle ingots?

R. M. P.
Director.

To
Lieut. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Asst. Mr. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Gold

Note of operations made to the Assayers Mints of the United States in the Method of Reports of Assortment

Where Gold has been received from the Treasurer and duly entered in the Melters Reports Book, Nature & description of Coin and Standard weight, and the Quality and Standard of Silver Contained when the Melter is reported, the first operation is to determine from the Assay Report and its Check, the Quantity of Gold and Silver contained in the Deposit, when 2 Assays have been made of the same Deposit, and the Assays do not agree, a third Assay is made, and the two Assays which most nearly agree are taken as the true Assay.

1st Ready for Melting. Melting Melter

2d Parting Reporting to the Parter

3d Cupel Conference Melter Conference

The first is ready to form a pot of Silver for parting a pot of Gold with the Deposit alloy, the latter to be as near as may be 4 of Silver, & of Contained in the Gold it must be added to the alloy to or to bring it from that proportion.

The second operation is to portion the quantity of Silver being known Gold and Silver containing Gold must be added to the Quantity necessary to form a pot in proportion that may according to the quantity of Silver in hand. If the latter is large 5 or 6 times the bk of Gold may be added, but the most desirable proportion is 3½ or 4 to one. The whole is then melted and well stirred in a Blacklead crucible of a capacity moderate by No 30 or 36. and poured in a small stream into Cold water. This operation is technically called Granulation and divides the Metal in minute parts

from

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The granulated metal is then dried
a gentle heat, and weighed
into lots of 5 ℔ each and placed in clay
pastry vessels of Glaze are now ready
can is taken to ascertain the ductility of
respective ingots by the touch, of the touch
Bottle or sheets they are placed and upon
sheets they are kept in annealing
state of the Silver is displayed, which is indicated
by the disappearance of the purple fumes of Nitrous
acid — the Nitrate of Silver is then poured off
and the Gold sheet remains in the vessel, is
well washed and filtered — and mixed
with a small quantity of Nitrate of Potash —
— Phosphorus of Nitric acid

A preparation of Silver for
Assaying by the Humid method, when Silver is not
required, has been prepared by the agency
of the Nitrate of Potash and is as follows.

The pots are made up, in the proportion
of 2 parts of Silver to 1 of Gold, being melted
and passed through cast into ingots
it is to be rolled to an oblong thickness
equal to 1 part of the whole, then flowered
and rolled into sheets. and then subjected
to the action of Nitric acid as before — it
is not necessary that it should be made into
thin Gold sheets for the quality or assay
process to be ascertained, it will have the
same quality of Silver and none
need be added

The third operation is to separate and recover
a precious alloy of Gold & Copper
is effected the union of the two metals is dissolved
and the result divided.

The Gold is first selected so as to form parts
of a bead, 400 or it to be which is between the
and ½ of it by Copper is added to the
the quantity not necessarily vary according to
the quantity and quality of other metal which
is nothing up to melt for ingots — The Gold
is then melted in a sand crucible
and when fluid the Copper is added
and the whole stirred, it then receives
a dose of Nitrate of Potash to
to oxidate with the metal which is decomposed when Borax or is powdered
added to collect the Caustic Potash for
the surface, and a portion of this vitrified
then operation 3 or four times, or while
poured that the Combination is complete
The same Crucible is then usually placed
upon a with Black lead, the action of the latter
being promoted upon the fusible matter
the preceding operation —

The metal is poured into moulds and
pieces better for assay which ordinary is
ground to 900 thousandths but the
result is sufficiently accurate.

There has of late been Gold in the
Combination with the fine Gold from the Ore
or any other source, to enable
nearly better to select a fixed proportion
as Nitric acid the Combination necessary
Standard quality or as near to it as possible
as it is found that crude copper cannot be
added in any quantity without rendering the
whole brittle, although any quantity of
Silver may without disadvantage —

The Nitrate of Silver from the
Separation of Gold is poured into a Solution
Solution of Muriate of Soda and Silver with
it settles to the is completely precipitated

chlorides of Silver. Then Formed is carbon with some water with it is Impure for pure acid tartar, when [illegible] This is added an Alcohol. Alcohol Sulphuric acid is poured the Two substances are decomposed, and the Silver appears it Metallic form. Pure Acetic is then added to remove the surplus the Iron which is as Oxide — the whole is carefully washed in boiling water to be calculated filter and then [illegible] tartar is made ready 7 Citrate of potash and yields Pure Silver 996 Millesimes. with. assay —

The Crucibles, ashes, and all other Matters with which the Metals have been in contact, are then to the ground or pulverized water and sifted in riddles of different grades to separate the grains and then put [illegible] is then [illegible] with Nitric, Potash, & Citrate of Carbonate 7 Potash and Muriate of Soda and Sometimes Borax — and the salt separated, separate as the case may require —

RG104 Entry 11

RG104 Entry 11

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, August 1st 1840

Sir,

I have before me your letters of 26th June and 7th July, receipt of the first of which I have already acknowledged. We now make the charge of one third of a cent per ounce on all Silver deposites made for small Coins, for toughening.

Mr. Kennedy has written to Mr Woodbury, in answer to his inquiries on the subject of the expenses for building, Machinery &c. A short time ago, I forwarded to you a copy of my expenditures under this head. It is to be regretted I drew any thing on this account, and that I had not charged these bills to Contingencies, but I had no one to direct or advise me, and followed in the errors, if errors they be, of my predecessor. There was no need here to shew the state of that appropriation, and I supposed for some time, that there was a surplus fund, which could be used at pleasure. Most of the letters addressed to this Mint, were called for in the recent investigation, and we are, no doubt, deprived of information that would have been useful. My accounts for Contingent and ordinary expenses, were forwarded before I received your letter of 7th ultimo, you have credit in this quarter, for expenses incurred by you. We have received no funds since I mentioned the subject to you last, our Workmen & Creditors begin very much, that the movements necessary to get funds here are so slow. Enclosed is a copy of my account Current of ordinary expenses for the last quarter. One thousand dollars

of the Contingent fund, were paid to Mr. Shadd.

I have received as a depositary, about $6000 of public money, as yet I have no instructions as to the mode of keeping the accounts, forms of returns &c. I presume that I am to keep the moneys received and paid, through the Bullion Dealers. I will be much obliged to you, if you will inform me what alterations &c are made by the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia, his experience will enable him to make easily, any changes that may be required, while the distance we are from Washington, and the occasional failure of the Mails, requires a considerable delay in getting information when asked. Nothing has been said to me about Clerks, pay &c. The salary for Clerks is not enough, to secure the services in this place, of a capable and trustworthy person, and I do not know how I can manage. If I am to be allowed two additional Clerks, I would rather have one, and add the salary of the second one to both salaries of the present Clerk & Messenger, if such a course would be approved of by the Department. Your suggestions on any thing connected with my office will be gladly received, and I will consider it a particular favor if you will write to me, with such information as you may think will be useful.

I am very respectfully
Your Ob't Servant,
H Hammack
Treas.r

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans August 2nd 1840

Sir,

I send you our Statement for July, which was handed to me yesterday evening by the Treasurer. The gold coinage would have been considerably larger but for an accident which happened to the Machinery on the 30th of the Month, and could not be repaired in time, to enable us to embrace in it, (not quarter) Blanchets amounting to something like $15,000 which were (read) for Stamping.

Dr Hort has requested me to consult you upon the propriety of charging for assays entirely unconnected with our operations. He is frequently called upon for that purpose, and these assays are attended with a cost to the Mint which is by no means inconsiderable. The Doctor thinks that a charge should be made sufficient at least to cover our expenses.

I forwarded on the 29th ult. (in answer to his enquiry) my Report to the Secretary of the Treasury, on

RG104 Entry 11

the subject of our Out houses, Marble Mantle
Furniture &c., of which I promised you a copy
I will send it to you in a day or two.

I am Sir
with great respect
Y. faithful Servant
D. Mackay

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of the
U. S.
Phila.

Supt.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

Aug. 8 1841.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., with the enclosed copy of a report made to you by the Chief, on the subject of repairs required in his department, and which are such as would require an interruption of the operations now going on at the Mint. Being on the spot, you can best judge of the necessity of these repairs, and it certainly lies within your discretion to authorize them. If your operations must be interrupted, this is no doubt the season at which a suspension would be the least injurious.

~~It is matter of great sickness~~

I am somewhat embarrassed by your question as to Alb. Tyler's anticipated request for leave of absence. The proposition has its dark and its bright sides. He is now under jealous surveillance, and the interruption in your ordinary operations may be imputed to his absence, instead of its being the cause and excuse for that absence. In the present state of things, you must all be many months. On the other hand, a week spent at this point might be of great importance

to Mr. Tyler, ~~many accounts~~. I wish Dr. Riddell could also pay us a visit. I really believe that the benefit of to your institutions from such a visit, would fully compensate for the interruption even if this were not rendered necessary by the state of the machinery.

In reflection, I think it best to consult the Secretary of the Treasury as to this point. Write to you know his answer.

The dies called for by Mr. Tyler are ordered.

R. M. P.
J.

Wm. McKennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

Mint U. S.

Augt. 3/ 41.

Sir,

I a letter from the Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint, of the 26th ult., he states, on the authority of a report from the Coiner, that certain repairs in the machinery, and especially in the steam-engine, will render necessary a suspension of the ordinary work of that Mint, for three or four weeks. At this season of the year, when very little business is done at the Mints, this may not give rise to any serious inconvenience.

Mr. Kennedy also mentions that it is the desire of Mr. Tyler to take advantage of this ~~interruption~~ suspension of work, to make a visit to the Mint here, and he consults me as to the propriety of his granting the required leave of absence. I am somewhat embarrassed by this question; because there is undoubtedly a party-feeling in that Mint, (I do not mean politically,) and every movement of the Superintendent may be made a cause of accusation. On the other hand, I do sincerely think that it would be very desirable that both Mr. Tyler and Dr. Riddell should

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should pass a few days with us here, and witness the annual operations, by which they have been an important acquaintance with which seems to form the origin of the troubles and misunderstandings at the A.L. Mint.

A note from you to me, consenting to such a visit, (if they choose to make it, at their own cost,) would remove the possibility of its being used to their own injury; which I think it would be a real and permanent advantage to their institution.

P.M.P.

Hon. Louis Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Aug 5. 1840

Sir,

I send you, according to promise, a copy of my report to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subject of the expenditures at this Mint for Coin Money, Machinery Monthly and Contingent, and have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Your most obt Servt
J. Mahoney
Supt

A. R. Patterson Esqr
Director Mint U. S.
Phila

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RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
August 5th 1840.

Sir,

Your several communications dated the 3d. instant have been received - and I approve of your suggestion contained in one of them - viz. - That Mess.rs. Tyler & Riddell have leave to make a visit to the Mint at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at N. Orleans and the parties choose to make it at their own expense. I trust you may be able to return at any time you shall think it best to do so.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury

Sec. of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

P. S. I enclose a letter received from the U. S. Consul at Vienna & send to your address. By the same Mail, the package to which he refers. This Consul having no account with the Govt. cannot have his expenditures reimbursed in the usual way by deposit to the credit of the Treasurer U.S. You can remit him

the amount in a Bill of Exchange to authorize him to draw on you as may be considered best.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

Aug. 7th, 1840.

Sir,

In my letter to you of the 31 inst., I told you that I would consult the Secretary of the Treasury as to the propriety of giving a temporary leave of absence, to the new appointed Officers of your Mint. I have just received his answer, in which he says.

"I assent to the suggestion, that Gov. Dodge & Mr. Reed visit, that Mess. Tyler & Riddell have leave to make a visit to the Mint at Philadelphia, provided it can be done during the suspension of work at New Orleans, and that the parties choose to make it at their own expense."

It is not perhaps a very liberal invitation to ask Dr. Riddell to visit us at his own cost, but, if it be not inconvenient to him to have leave under this condition, and if his other occupations permit it, I think that a week or two days could be spent by him, at our Mint, very advantageously. He would besides have it in his power to keep up communications with some fellow naturalists of distinction, — Nuttall, Lea, &c., — and might thus gain a double advantage and a

RG104 Entry 11

death of planters from his district

A. M. P.
J.

To/
Wm. A. Kennedy, Esq.
Insp. Br. Mint,
New Orleans

Mart U. L —

Aug. 12 / 48.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 1st inst.

I thank you for the information you communicate as to your expenditures and accounts, for although these are only very indirectly under my control, I am interested to know the condition of your Agent in all points.

I feared you would be embarrassed as to the establishment of your Sub Treasury, and had a set of our forms ready to send you, when I received a second series of instructions from the Department entirely at variance with the first, and which rendered our first labor and forms useless. To avoid a recurrence of this evil, I sent a set of our forms to Washington for approbation, and, when my letter is answered, I will immediately send the set to you. In the course which you have adopted, you have in my judgment committed a mistake. I have ~~adopted~~ assumed it as a first principle in the management of the Sub Treasury, that it is to be kept, in all respects, distinct from the affairs of the Bank. It must have distinct accounts and books, a distinct vault, and a distinct

RG104 Entry 11

clerk. As to the best point you will be embarrassed by the inadequate salary allowed and I know not how you are to get over the difficulty. Perhaps the Secretary will allow the plan proposed in your letter, and make the $800 a payment for ~~one~~ the Services, as the Substitutary, mentioned by you private clerks; but if you could get a Separate clerk at $800 it would be better.

The instructions of the Secretary of the 9th of July left you responsible to charge yourself with all sums received on account of the Treasurer of the United States, and credit yourself with all payments made by his order, and no other. — I make you not to be led astray by this instruction. You are, or will be, subsequently told to open the account thus:

Dr. The Treasurer of the U. S., in account with the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans (acting as Substitutary) Cr.

Whereas you be told that you are, in fact, to debit and credit the Treasurer of the U.S., and not yourself.

I have, on my application to this effect, received instructions, which are intended also to meet, and authorize the reception of all deposites of foreign Coins made in the Substitutary. The Cash Book and Ledger account is, however, as in the case of your own client accounts, to be a Private and not a Substitutary account; as the nominal amount, by tale, of this last, is not to be charged. I will send you, with the other forms, that which may be adopted for the Manual to be employed in this case.

P. M. P.

H. C. Carmichael, Esq.
Treasurer of Branch Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. — The word Say, introduced into your Monthly Statements, gives to the items an air of ~~suspicion~~ as if they were fictitious examples in a formulary of accounts; and I suppose this may, in fact, be its origin, and that it may have been borrowed from us. Let me suggest the propriety of omitting it henceforward.

RG104 Entry 11

Philad. Mint

Aug. 12th 1841.

Sir,

Your report for July is now received by me this morning. It is quite satisfactory, although we have to regret the accident which diminished the amount of gold coinage.

The act of 28th May 1828, authorizes the assay, at the Mint, of bullion not intended for coinage, at rates of charge and such regulations to be established by the Director. At this Mint it has just been judged expedient to take advantage of the authority thus granted. If has been deemed inexpedient to introduce any system of perquisites, for officers or men; in any shape, of any kind, for work done in the Mint and the whole extra duties of either, without pay, would be performed. The depositors, for interest, always are made here for individuals, but this is rare, and no charge has ever been made. Such is the course and such has been the feeling at this Mint. I do not know, however, that a different course may not be advisable at your institution. To be satisfied on this point, I should be glad to be informed what are the kinds of assays asked for at your Mint

RG104 Entry 11

Are they of bullion, or of silver plate? Are they asked for by the owners in silver or gold, and if so, do they ask for a stamp to authenticate the quality? I have written to Collins that the act law in question was intended to apply to this kind of business. If there is a prospect of business enough of this kind, to make the [illegible] worth Dr. Hart's pursuing, I would be glad to know what charge (for assay, would, in his judgment pay for the labor & expenses, and what proportion should go to the assist for the materials used. I have not given this matter consideration, because our Assayers have objected to the introduction of extra monetary assays.

I should add, that we are frequently called upon for analyses of ores, and that they are sometimes made. But this is always at the free choice of the Assayers, and without charge and is not considered official labor.

R. M. P.

Dr. Ali. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans.

P. S. — I wrote the above without having your letter before me; and I now find, on a reperusal of it, that I had not a correct impression of the question proposed by Dr. Hart. I am quite surprised to learn that he is troubled with private assays to such an extent as to make the cost to the mint, "by no means inconsiderable." This ought not to be, for his own sake; and it is cruelty to his own steward to present it. I am still desirous to have a reply to my inquiries, although they were made under a wrong impression as to the proposed move by Dr. Hart.

RG104 Entry 11

(Copy)

U. States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, August 13th 1840

Dear Sir

We have in the Mint only one set of weights, for the use of all the Officers, which causes great trouble, inconvenience, and frequent delay in the operations, besides subjecting us to inaccuracies, by having them at the disposal of so many different persons. I therefore beg to ask you, to request another set to be sent for the use of this Mint.

The law of 19. May 1828, requires, that the weights employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated at least once a year, and this accuracy tested in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of annual assay. I infer, therefore, that the weights now here, will have to be sent to Philadelphia, which will render it necessary to procure new ones.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
(Signed) A. Campbell
Treasurer

Joseph Kennedy Esq
Supt U. S. Branch Mint

RG104 Entry 11

(No. 2.)

/ Copy /

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans - Coiner's Office
July 18. 1840

To/
R. M. Memis Esq
Superintendent.

Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have worked as far as practicable the gold in my possession, and find that the experiment reported to you were a fair test of its ductility. About one half was rejected in the first operation of rolling, the rest of the remainder being selected in the subsequent operations there remained sufficient to make about $ 8000, which was attended with much trouble and waste through every operation.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
Signed - P. B. Tyler.
Coiner.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans August 14. 1840

Sir,

I offer the following explanation and enclosed reports from the Comer in reply to the inquiries in your letter of the 30th ult:

1840 - 16 May - 1593 g of gold delivered to the Comer.
" 19 May - Returned entire / cracked in rolling
" 29 May - 1941 g gold } Delivered to Comer
" 9 June - 1266 do do }
" 15 June both deliveries returned entire / cracked in Rolling

The two first were the melts which gave rise to that part of the letter to you of the 5th of June mentioning the conflicting opinions of the Melter and Comer in relation to the working of the gold, and the unsuccessful attempts to roll which are described by Mr Eyster. The third had not at that time for you will perceive by the dates been delivered.

On the 20th of June there was another delivery of 2302 g of gold. / It was this melt

from which the $8500 were coined. On that day I wrote Mr. Tyler the following note.

"If you find that the gold which was
"delivered to you this morning will not work
"it is my wish that you should make
"no trial beyond the 10th inst. If a certain
"= ty of Salt can be produced, even at the
"cost of a little extra pains, or trouble
"you will oblige me by taking it."

I rec'd on the 23d of the same month from Mr. Tyler the report marked No 1.

It was at this stage of the matter, that I at first thought of having some experiments tried with the gold, in my presence. I afterwards abandoned the idea for the reason I have already given you, and, as we had some gold certificates out which I was anxious to pay off, I requested Mr. Tyler to see whether he could do any thing with the balance of the Melt which had remained in his possession, and had not been rejected, as the Secretary of the Treasury has been informed. After having done so, he sent me the report marked No 2. The Secretary's informant might have been set right in this matter upon application to the Melter & Refiner himself, for, of the first report, I allowed that Officer to take a copy, and the contents of the second I communicated to him verbally. In the two, you will, I think find any answer to all your inquiries to which I have not directly replied.

I have read to Dr. Riddell that part of your letter of the 30th ult. which relates to your mode of casting quarter eagle ingots. To my question whether he was in the habit of "stopping the rod in the midst, covering up the pot and increasing the heat of the "Metal" he replied that he did not do so, because his Melts were small. This circumstance then could not have been attended to in the Melt from which the $8500 were coined.

Dr. Hart has requested me to say to you, that he wants for his Department "One clay oven, & machine such as is used "in Philadelphia for agitating; for in this "climate the springs are continually giving "way, causing a great expence, and

RG104 Entry 11

One carboy of pure nitric acid.

Very respectfully your
Obed. Serv.t

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint of
the U. S. Phila.

P. S. I also enclose a copy of a note just rec.d from Mr. Commack in relation to our weights—

I cannot now anticipate that our gold coinage will suffer any further interruption. 40.000 Dollars have already been coined this month. This fact should go far, I think, towards inducing you to overlook our real difficulties in that respect. I hope that by sending you copies of the reports which I rec.d from Mr. Eyer during the existence of those difficulties, will not have the effect of preventing so desirable a termination of them. Justice alone to Mr. E. has induced me to communicate, so far as it was in my power, whatever injury he might sustain, by an ex parte representation.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 20, 1840.

Sir,

I send, by the present mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one pair of Half-dollar dies. There are now ready for your Mint another pair of ½ dollar dies, - 2 pairs of dime, & 2 pairs of ½ dime dies: these will be transmitted, in the same way, by the next three mails.

I have the pleasure to thank you for your the copy of your communications to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subject of the expenditures at your Mint. I am always glad to be made acquainted with those matters, though my responsibility in the case is only indirect.

R. M. P.
Dr

To/
Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. N. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Aug. 2. 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of ~~inclosing~~ sending, by the present mail, to your address, a box of dies, directed on the inner envelope to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, to be forwarded under your frank. ~~Three more boxes for the same Mint will be transmitted by the three next succeeding~~ three more will be transmitted by the three next mails.

R. M. P.
Dr

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

United S. Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office Augt 23. 1840

Dear Sir

permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Dr J. L. Riddell. melter & Refiner of this Mint. who leaves here this day for the purpose of making you a visit at Philadelphia. Dr Riddell is so well known to you by reputation that I deem it useless to say more. The operations of the Mint for some weeks past have been conducted with pleasantness & success. The coinage has been up to this time

91.000 in Silver and
40.000 in Gold.

Referring you to Dr Riddell for particulars of our establishment here

I remain
Most faithfully yours
H. Eckfeldt
Treas.

To
Dr Robt Patterson.

RG104 Entry 11

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

Aug. 25 / 40.

Sir,

In a letter to me, of the 27th ult., you advert to the circumstance that the Coins of Mr. Tyler, of the New Orleans Mint, had caused considerable talking and coming here of a melt which he had before rejected as brittle, and which had been the cause of the difficulty between him and Dr. Riddell. In my answer to your letter, I mentioned that I would enquire into the matter, of the Superintendent. I now send you a copy of his reply, which exculpates the Coins in the fullest manner, by showing that the pieces rolled were not of the two melts which gave rise to the dispute between him & the Melter & Refiner, or of a subsequent third melt which had also been rejected, but made part of a fourth melt, which had never been returned as rejected. It then appears that an attempt was made to deceive you, for the purpose of injuring Mr. Tyler in your opinion. that the ground taken a proof of Mr. Tyler's dishonesty & unfairness, and which was calculated to injure him in your opinion, was utterly without foundation.

P. M. P.

Dr.

To Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

/Copy/

Assay's Office B. M. N. O.
28 August 1840.

Sir

In reply to your communication of yesterday I state I would observe, that the Assays chiefly asked for at this Mint, and not in the regular routine of business, are Assays of the great Variety of Mineral ores found in the Mountainous ranges bounding the valley of the Mississippi: they have been brought or sent from every State and Territory on both sides of the river, from Iowa & Wisconsin in the North to Louisiana in the South. In analysing these ores Copper, Iron, Lead, Zinc, Tin, Antimony, Chromate &c have been discovered, and some of them, particularly the ores of Copper Lead and Tin were found to be unusually rich. One Specimen of Gold embedded in Quartz from the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas was brought here, and a richer Specimen I think was never seen. Silver has been discovered in several of the Specimens, but in too small a quantity to be of value. Silver plate has been brought here, in two instances only, it had

just been received from New York, and found no deposited. A certificate of the standard was given with my signature, but no stamp was asked for, or used.

Considering the importance of developing the minerals resources of the Western Country, and such anxiety on the subject being manifested by the inhabitants, it occurred to me that nothing would tend to make this Mint so popular as to gratify them on this subject, and from the commencement of the operations here in 1838, I have never refused to make an analysis of any metallic or mineral substance that was brought to the Mint, always giving a written statement of the result with my signature as Assayer of the Mint.

But these assays are often difficult tedious and troublesome, occupying considerable time they cost more than any of the persons employed in the regular operations of the Mint, for it is necessary to use a great many re-agents, besides the consumption of fuel and waste of acids, & they have increased to much of late, that I have no hesitation in saying, that whoever attends to the business, ought to be compensated, and that the United States should be reimbursed to the amount of the actual expense incurred - That the act of the 19th May 1828 Sec 7. refers directly to this subject, I have not the smallest doubt. In conversing in relation to this matter with Dr. Riddell, and with a Frenchman who is a private Assayer, I have concluded that the charges should vary from $5 to $10. the amount charged, in every instance, to be equally divided between the person making the analysis & the Mint. Many instances must occur in which it would be improper to make any charge, as when an ignorant person has been deceived, and it can be ascertained in one or two minutes that an analysis is necessary.

With great respect
Yr. ob. Servt.
Signed = Wm. P. Kirk Assay.

P.S. Persons who have brought ores here for analysis have uniformly expected to pay, and have tendered payment, although as yet nothing has been demanded.
sig. WK

Sir M. Kennedy Esq.
Supt. U.S. Branch Mint
N. Orleans

RG104 Entry 11

Treasurers Office U. S. Br. Mint
New Orleans August 30. 1840

Sir

I have received your letter of 26th which came to hand some days ago, and I thank you for the trouble you are taking, to assist me in establishing my Sub Treasury accounts &c &c.

Thus far I have kept every thing connected with my new duties, in all respects, distinct from from the Mint. I have no instructions yet as to Clerks, porters, Stationary &c and thus far I have got on with the assistance only of the Clerks & porters belonging to the Mint.

In a day or two I will furnish estimates for building the strong vaults which we are required to have constructed. The vaults of this Mint, with the exception of one, used inside with iron by Mr Forstall, are very insecure. The walls are a brick and a half thick, and are built with common brick and common mortar. An architect who examined them the other day, remarked that he could cut through any of them, in two hours time, with a jack Knife.

I have written to Mr Woodbury to ask him to permit three additional Men to be engaged, on account of the Sub Treasury, in the night to watch the

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The Space to be guarded is so great that not less than
three men can watch it successfully; and these
remain on duty from 5 in the evening until the
next morning when relieved by the day watch.
The men too have no good & faithful men but the
duty is too hard. already three men died
in the service: others have left with constitutions
ruined, and those we have here are suffering from the
exposure. The Square in which the building
is placed is enclosed by a low light iron railing
which could be vaulted, by expert individuals,
with but little trouble.

Dr Kendall left here last Sunday and will be
with you, no doubt, some days before the present reaches
you.

The mint has stopped and all are busy in
repairing, cleaning &c &c. We have paid all
of our depositors except three (amounting to $305.05).
who are out of town, and I have on hand in
Silver Coins ____ about ____ $2000
Gold Coins ____ " ____ 35.000

I thank you for the hint about the word "Say"
I have not noticed it. It appears in the formula
which you sent us and Mr Ickelles copied it.

I am with great respect
Your most faithful servant
A. L. Dannacker
Treasurer

To
Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of August 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposites	Gross weight before melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value after deductions	
	Ounces	dec	Ounces	dec	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Bullion	549	10	11	532	215	66	215	26		
Foreign Coins	353	71	349	571	650	63	650	63		
									671	29
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	549	10	557	03	648	18	626	22		
Foreign Coins	1661	45	1649	48	19194	61	19184	39		
									19842	79
Total deposites									26562	08

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles	8.000	40000	00		
				40.000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars	47.500	23750	00		
Quarter Dollars	75.000	18.750	00		
Dimes	60.000	6.000	00		
Half Dimes	90.000	4.500	00		
				53.000	00
Total Coinage				93.000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, August 31st 1840.
A. Hebrard
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept. 1. 1840

Sir,

I enclose an Statement for August, and have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Your Obed. Serv.t

J. Mordecai
Sup.t

R. M. Patterson Esq.r
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phil.a

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Sept 6th 1840.

Sir,

We have rec'd all the dies mentioned in your letter of the 20th ult: viz: 2 P.S. of $ dollar, 2 P.S. of Dime and 2 P.S. of ½ Dime &c.

I enclose a copy of a communication from Dr Hart, in reply to one from me making the inquiry contained in your letter of the 12th ult: relative to the private assay I asked for at our Mint. It will give you the information you desire upon that subject.

In a letter which I rec'd yesterday from the Secretary of the Treasury, he says "It has been intimated to this Department, that much dissatisfaction has been occasioned by the deposites of Small sums for coinage with the Branch Mint at New Orleans. The complaint that their claims for repayment are postponed in favor of larger depositors." I can assure you, that for those complaints, there is not the slightest foundation. Mr. Woodbury adds that "the safest rule to be adopted, and adhered to rigidly, would seem to be, to pay for deposites in the order in which they are made." This has been our almost uniform

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practice, as the records of the Mint will show.
Whenever this rule, which is to be found in our instructions, from you, has been deviated from at all, which has very rarely happened, it has been in favor of the "Small" and not the "Larger depositors". This fact our books will also substantiate. The truth is, that our largest depositors have, in almost every case been the Banks. Their deposites have been in many instances, made at the request either of Commodore or myself, with a view of preventing any interruption in our coinage for the want of bullion. For repayment, they have generally expressed a willingness to wait our convenience and out of the amount received from them de=positors, it has not been unfrequently the case, that "Small depositors", after them, in point of date of deposite, have been paid first.
Our Mint suspended on the 26th ult., to resume again on the 1st of Oct. After paying every cent that we owe, we have a balance, in Silver, of between three and four thousand Dollars, and in gold, of upwards of thirty thousand. I am very respectfully, Sir,

Your obed. Servt

S. McKeown

Asst

R. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint of the U. S.
Phila.

RG104 Entry 11

/Copy/

United States Branch Mint
New Orleans – Coiner's office Sept.
9th 1840.

To Dr. Patterson Esq
Supt.

Sir,

Among the difficulties which I have had to encounter in the Machinery of my department, the Coining presses have been the principal source of trouble, owing to some imperfections in their construction. I have been informed by the Director, as well as from other sources that many improvements have been made in the presses at Philad; so as to obviate most of the difficulties to which they were at first liable. I had looked forward with much anxiety to the time of suspension this summer, with the view of going to Philad: for the purpose of examining fully the improvements they have made, or also of getting such other information as their long experience and abundant facilities would offer me. But as I am necessarily detained here on account of the Machinery, during the only time

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I could have expected to visit Philad.a, I have to request that you will employ my Brother (who is now at the North) to spend 15 or 20 days in the Philad.a Mint, and collect such information as the Director may think of the most importance to me. I suppose this course as possessing much utility from the fact of my Brother's having been employed as Foreman of my department during the past year, and of his expectation to bring his family out and remain here in the same capacity in future; besides he is a very competent person, and I know of no way by which the information we require could be so readily applied to the benefit of the Institution. It will be necessary to make some purchases in Philad.a of foley, steel &c, and if you think well of employing my Brother there he can make such selections as will best suit.

You can hear from him by addressing Nelson Tyler Springfield Mass.

Very respectfully Your faithful servant signed P. B. Tyler Comer

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Feb. 12, 1840.

Sir,

The transmission of the Monthly Report of the operations of the Branch Mints presents a suitable occasion for noticing certain accusations ~~which have been~~ made against the New Orleans Mint, and particularly at Charleston, which I am told by Col. Wheeler were publicly made before him by the Hon. Mr. Benton, and with regard to which I am convinced that this Statesman has been deceived.

A general accusation was that the Coinage of the N.O. Mint fell far short of the amount that was justly expected of it. In one sense this is true, and the accusation I am sorry to say, may now be extended to the Philadelphia Mint. But I understand it to have been implied that this deficiency was owing to negligence or delay on the part of the officers. The truth of this accusation is tested at once by comparing the Coinage with the deposites, and a simple inspection of the monthly reports will show that the Coinage keeps up with the deposites very satisfactorily; so that the officers are unexceptionably correct, upon the amount of deposites they have no direct control. In the

report sent to you to-day; you will observe that the coinage amounts to $93,000, and the deposits to only $26,563.

Some one has informed Mr. Benton that Mr. Cammack suffers the Mint Certificates to be protested for non-payment, and that this is a frequent occurrence, greatly injuring the reputation of the Mint. Mr. Benton is doubtless deceived. I know the best reason for knowing that deposits are paid with satisfactory promptitude at the N.O. Mint. It is frequently reported that they owe nothing on this account, and in a letter received yesterday, with their monthly report, it is stated that all deposits are paid, except $395.03 uncalled for, and that there are on hand $4000 in Silver Coin and $35,000 in gold Coin. — It is true that N.O. Mint certificates were formerly protested, but this mortifying circumstance was owing to the disasters that occurred under the first régime of the Mint. — But another point in which Mr. Benton has been deceived is in supposing that the Treasurer was the officer to bear the blame if the Mint did not redeem its certificates. On the contrary, this officer has no control over the Coinage, or unnecessary delay in which must be blamed either upon the Melter & Refiner, or the Coiner, or both.

When facts are shown to be unfounded, it is not perhaps needful any further to look into the motives to which they have been ascribed; yet it may not be improper to say, add that my informant told me that Mr. Benton had been led to believe that Mr. Cammack kept back the payments, because he was concerned in a rival banking establishment, and it was his interest to make specie scarce. Dr. Riddell, he is now, as you know, at this Mint, — addresses me that Mr. Cammack has no connection with any Bank's office.

You are aware that Mr. Cammack was introduced into the N.O. Mint on the recommendation of the U.S. District Attorney Mr. Riddell, Mr. Rost, and I believe Mr. Soulé, the confidential friend of the present Executive. I feel no peculiar responsibility, therefore, with regard to his appointment; but it would be ignoble in me to hold quietly on, while I believe injustice is done to a faithful and efficient officer.

My impression is that the whole Mint & Mint is now under the charge of competent men, and that we may confidently

look to a satisfactory execution of its functions for the future. There has been some difficulty from the interference of the Galletin Register and the Census, but I am convinced that this is now at an end. The visit of Dr. Riddell to this Point has given him much important information.

760

Sec. of Treasury.

Sept. 12. 1840.

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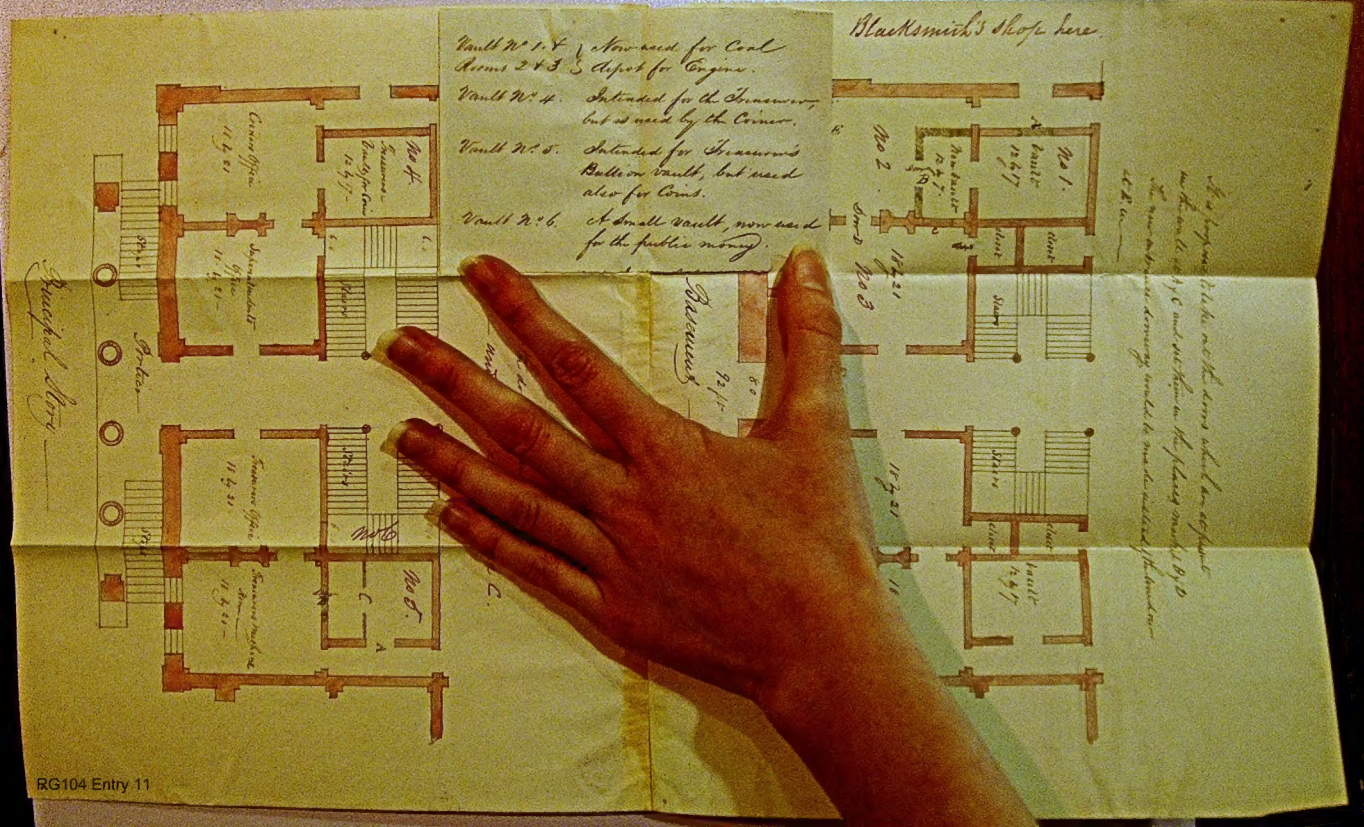
Vault No 1 & Rooms 2 & 3 Now used for Coal Depot for Engine.
Vault No 4. Intended for the Treasurer, but is used by the Coroner.
Vault No 5. Intended for Treasurer's Bullion Vault, but used also for Coins.
Vault No 6. A Small Vault, now used for the public money.
Blacksmith's Shop here
Coroner's Office
Treasurer's Office
Treasurer's Bullion Office
Porter
Principal Door
Passage
Stairs
Vault
No 1.
No 2.
No 3
No 4.
No 5.
No 6.

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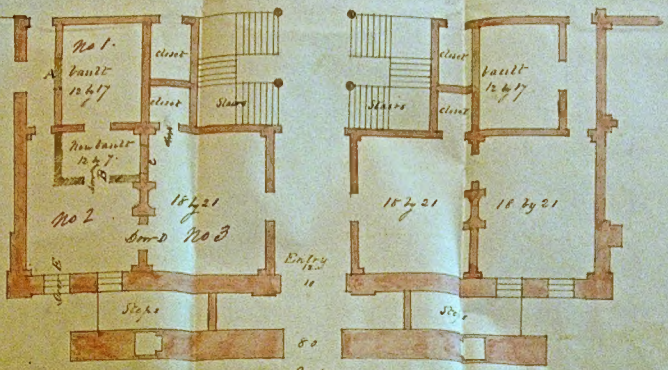
It is proposed to take out the doors which are at present in the walls at B & C and set them in the places marked B & D
The new entrance doorway would be made instead of the window at E.

Blackmore's Map. Sheet



Basement —

It is proposed to take out the door at A and place it in the wall at B — and make a partition at C.

Principal Story —

RG104 Entry 11

Dr. The Treasurer of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, in acct with the Melter & Refiner — Gold Bullion transferred during the year 1840. — Cr

1840			Ounces	dec
January		To standard ingots delivered	0.	000
February	29	" "	3,457	510
March	31	" "	3,096	270
April	30	" "	2,065	360
May	30	" "	3,540	090
June	30	" "	3,569	080
July	31	" "	3,609	890
August	31	" "	1,044	830
September		" "	0.	000
October	31	" "	240	280
November	30	" "	6,331	190
December	31	" "	2,661	670
	"	To amount of bullion delivered in annual settlement	1,353	088
	"	" Wastage	68	646
			31,823	102

1840			Ounces	dec
January	31	By Bullion received	3,333	386
	"	" Clippings "	1,463	450
February	29	" Bullion "	186	471
	"	" Clippings "	832	850
March	31	" Bullion "	718	763
	"	" Clippings "	2,856	330
April	30	" Bullion "	1,176	320
	"	" Clippings "	895	630
May	30	" Bullion "	1,091	233
	"	" Clippings "	1,332	230
June	30	" Bullion "	0.	000
	"	" Clippings "	3,109	780
July	31	" Bullion "	285	710
	"	" Clippings "	3,186	220
August	31	" Bullion "	361	163
	"	" Clippings "	1,003	270
October	31	" Bullion "	3,244	600
	"	" Clippings "	0.	000
Novemb.	30	" Bullion "	1,040	185
	"	" Clippings "	2,301	350
Decemb.	31	" Bullion "	741	657
	"	" Clippings "	1,667	630
		New Orleans 31st Dec 1840		
		J. L. Riddell, M & R	31,823	102

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Statement of Bullion 1840

Refiner

		ounces	dwt
Silver Bullion	delivered to him in 1840	1.426.199	56
	On hand 31 Dec 1839 returned 1 Jany 1840	25.021	80
	On hand 31 Dec 1840 returned 1 " 1841	9.621	65
	Wastage Claimed	650	32
Gold Bullion	Delivered	30378	349
	weight 31 Dec 1840 returned 1841	544	45
	Wastage Claimed	14	695

Melter & Refiner

Silver Bullion	Delivered to him	1.137.487	25
	On hand 1839 returned 1 Jany 1840	5.464	39
	On hand 1840 returned 1 Jany 1841	37.695	30
	Wastage Claimed 1840	2.000	"
Gold Bullion	Delivered in 1840	31.823	102
	On hand 1840 returned 1841	1.343	086
	Wastage Claimed	53	646

Silver alloy for Gold Claimed 300

Gold Coinage $217.5.00 £ 11.690 ⅌ alloy 1162 oz

Silver ⅌ 290

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N. Orleans Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept 13. 1840

Sir,

You will find enclosed a copy of a communication to me from our Coiner Mr. Nelson Tyler, of whose character, I speak, has always been employed as foreman of the Coining department and his services therein were highly valuable. It would give me great satisfaction to see him return to the Mint in the same capacity, but the request made in the Communication aforementioned, I must leave to you. He would no doubt not only require his salary to commence with the date of his engagement which wd be proper enough, but would also expect his passage out here to be paid by the Mint. This I will not take it upon myself to authorize. If you should come to the conclusion, for the reasons given by Mr. Tyler, to accede to his request, you will much oblige me by writing to him better yourself. Return him, if you think proper, pay at present & I am very respectfully
your obd. Servt
J. Mildenberger
Supt

R. M. Patterson Esqre
Director of the Mint at Phila

Treasurer's Office U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans September 12th 1840

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th & 24th August.

Enclosed herewith, I send you an estimate of expenses to be incurred under the 14th Section of the Act of 4 July 1840, for the quarter ending 30th instant.

I feel myself embarrassed as to the Clerks it will be necessary to employ, in consequence of the additional duties to be performed by me, as depositary of the Public Moneys, owing to the inadequacy of the Salaries allowed by the law. For the pay of eight hundred dollars per annum, I cannot secure the services of capable and trustworthy persons, and I am at a loss what to do. Thus far, the business has been done by the Clerks formerly attached to the Mint. The Salary paid to the Clerks now in the Mint is small, and it is left to young men of this capacity usually serve in other employ, and if there is no objection to their receiving additional pay under the Independent Treasury Bill, for services, I could arrange by having the Salaries of two Clerks allowed to this Office, the one to be paid to the best person to be procured for that sum, and the other to be left to me, to be paid as I may think best to the present Clerks for extra services. I have asked in the estimate which I send you, $66. by for two Clerks from 1st August. This is subject to your approbation and advice. The Treasury Clerk & the weigh master have performed the duties, and if you think it proper, I will be glad they may

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be paid.

Enclosed I have you also, estimate for securing and building Vaults, together with a plan shewing the contemplated changes and additions. There are two estimates, one for the Vaults on the basement story, and the other on the second floor. It will be much more convenient to have the Vaults on the second floor if practicable, as on the other buildings of the Treasury it can not be done, but such I fear cannot be done, for though there are Vaults enough in this story, there is no room that could be used without interfering with some of the other Offices for receiving, paying & counting money, except the weighing room, which is not calculated for more than the ordinary operations of the Mint. The Vaults on the ground floor, although dark, damp and unpleasant can be made large and strong, and it is the opinion of the superintendent that they should be selected.

I am very respectfully
Your obt Servt
H. R. Cammack

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Secy of the Treasury

Dear Sir

Annexed I hand you copy of a letter which I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury and enclosed with the present is copy of the plans referred to therein.

I send you these because I believe that you will be gratified to know what I am doing, and because you can perhaps assist me with your advice.

Will you be kind enough to inform me what alterations have been made in Philadelphia and what vaults & rooms are used by the Treasurer for keeping the public moneys.

I am very truly
Yr faithful & Obt H
H. R. Cammack

Treasurer's Office Coml Mint
New Orleans 15 Sept 1842

To
Dr R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Sept. 16. 1840

Sir,

Dr. Riddell has finished his visit at Philadelphia, and now sets out on his return to New Orleans, by the way of Washington, where he will see you. His stay at our Mint has, I am sure, been of the greatest importance to him in connexion with his Official duties at New Orleans, and will be favorably felt in the future operations at the Mint there.

When leave was given him to make a visit to our institution, it was with the express stipulation that his expenses were to be borne by himself. He can therefore present no claim except on the generosity and sense of justice of the Department. But on a review of the whole case, I am disposed to think that these ought to be extended to him. His visit was for the public benefit, by giving him opportunities of acquiring a practical acquaintance with some essential operations which he could not otherwise have obtained. The same opportunity was given to other Officers of the New Orleans Mint, — to the Assayer for example, — and their travelling expenses were paid. In considering this question it should not be forgotten that the Salaries of the Officers at the New Orleans Mint are very low for so expensive a City.

Very Respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. P.

Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treas.

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Mint U. S.

Feb. 24/60.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 13th inst. enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Tyler, on the subject of a proposed visit to be made to this Mint by his son Wm. Tyler. I shall write to the gentleman immediately, and mention the proposition to him; but a decision lately made by the Secretary of the Treasury forbids any allowance being made, for travelling expenses, to workmen engaged for the Mints.

The most important improvement introduced into our Coining presses is the Spring Collar, which I understand to be already adopted at your Mint. We have also made a substitute for the Counterweight in two of our presses, but the Counterweight is still used in the other two, and they operate perfectly well.

We have no funds for the expenses incurred here for your Mint, and are already over, on your account, $98.92. Shipping has ordered for your Mint will cost nearly $600 more. I hope to procure for us a remittance of $700.—

Wm. M. Kennedy Esq.
Sup. N. Orleans

R. M. P.

Mint U.S.
Sept. 24/48.

Sir,

By letters just received from the Asst Atty Genl I learn that it is the wish of Mr. Kennedy and your brother that you should be again employed in the establishment, and they think it desirable that you should spend a few days at this Mint, on your road. You might, by so doing, get some information that would be useful, and I need hardly say that any opportunity of doing so will be cheerfully afforded to you here.

The question is Mr. Kennedy says he thinks it just that your pay should cease from the time of your accepting your appointment, and letting out for it to fulfil it, but he refers to me the question of your travelling expenses. I have to state that this point has been settled by the Secretary of the Treasury, who has decided, in a recent case, that travelling expenses shall not be allowed to persons engaged for the Mints.

To
Mr. Selden Tyler.
Springfield
Mass.

R. M. Patterson
Director.

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Mint U. States Branch Mint
New Orleans Sept. 24th 1840.

To J. M. Kennedy Esq
Superintendent
Sir

The articles which I propose to purchase in Philadelphia are as follows.

1 Bar of Cast Steel 3 inches Square
1 — — — — 3 — by 1
an assortment of Small Sizes flat, round & Square, amounting in all to about $25 — — — by $25.
3 doz. Flat rough files, 10 - 12 & 13 inches.
3 doz. ½ round do do 10 - 12 & 13 —
½ doz. Flat Smooth do 13 — —
Also an assortment including some Bastard Cut
3 doz. Saw files, 4 - 6 - & 8 inches.
Some small flat round & half round Smooth files
amounting to about $25. — — — — by $ 25.
3 or 400 pinned Clean rags 20
150 feet of 4 inch belt — 1 Side of belt Leather 20
An assortment of Emery Paper 3
100 file handles 6
Small magnifying glass 1
$100.

It will soon be necessary to get a new supply of Rolls as we have only one pair now on hand. I should think it best to order 6 pairs which will Cost . . . . . $240.

I shall send a Memorandum

to my letter of such inquiries as I think most important in the Phil.a Mint

Very resp.y

Yr. Mo. Obd.t Serv.t

Jno. Phelps R. Fisher

Comy.

Mint U. S.

Apl. 25/48.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst, inclosing a copy of one to you from Dr. Hunt.

I am surprised to find that Dr. Hunt supposes the 7th Section of the act of May 9th 1848 to have reference to the analysis of ores, when the terms of act are explicit, — that "it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to receive, and cause to be assayed, bullion not intended for coinage, and to cause certificates to be given of the fineness thereof." The circumstances which gave rise to this enactment are known to us here, and it is certain that it had no relation whatever to the analysis of ores.

Now I have no hesitation in saying that the analysis of minerals, as proposed by Dr. Hunt, cannot be considered a Mint operation; while it is perfectly right and very desirable that the Director should make them, if he is so disposed, and that he should be remunerated for his trouble and skill by a proper charge. On the part of the government there must be no charge; but Dr. Hunt will take care either not to use

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the materials belonging to the government, or to replace them, or to pay for them their just value.

I thank you for the explanations relative to the small deposits. Some Northern Correspondents seem bent upon doing all the mischief they can to your institution, and I shall endeavour to counteract it in your defence.

I have received (this morning) a letter from Mr. Cammack (of the 15th inst.) on the subject of your arrangements for the Subtreasury, with a plan exhibiting the changes proposed in your building in order to accommodate it. It is difficult for me to form a correct estimate of the relative advantages of the two schemes, but, with my imperfect knowledge of the circumstances, I feel disposed to prefer the plan which places the Subtreasury in the principal Story. My reasons are, first, that it is more safe to have all the vaults on the same floor, as they are more readily watched, and an attempt to enter them could be more easily seen under the eye of the officers. Secondly, the Stairways lead to attend to the business both of the Mint and the Subtreasury; it must be inconvenient to have the places of doing performing these functions so far separated. Thirdly, if the Mint Clerks, or any one of them, are to be employed also in the Subtreasury, it will be almost impossible essential that the offices and vaults of the departments be near to each other. I do not think that more than one Subtreasury Clerk will be allowed, and I do not think he should be placed in an office in the basement Story, communicating directly out of doors, and far from the other offices and clerks.

Mr. Cammack asks me what arrangements have been made here for the accommodation of the Subtreasury. I answer that one Cruise, Mr. Poole, gave up his present office in the principal Story, and took one of those; and that he also gave up a part of his Bullion vault, which was partitioned off, and has an door opening into the Subtreasury Office. He also yielded up a large vault in the basement Story, but it have not yet had occasion to use it.

I send enclosed the forms of warrant used for the receipt of foreign Coins belonging to the government.

P.S. - Please to send me as early as possible, your Estimate for 1841. I am called upon for them by the Treasury Department.

P. M.

Hon. M. Kennedy, &c.
Supt. Phila. Mint
Mint Clerks

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of September 1840

Deposites

Kind of Deposite	Gross Weight previous to melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value after deductions	
	Ounces	dec.	Ounces	dec.	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
None										
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	229	55	249	44	290	25	289	51		
Foreign Coins	283	50	275	75	320	88	320	88		
									611	13
Total deposits									611	13

Coinage

Denominations	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
None					
Silver:					
None					

United States Branch Mint, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, September 30th 1840
H. E. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Oct 4 1840

Sir,

I send you our statement for September which I rec'd from the Treasurer yesterday. I also inclose a copy of a Report from our Coiner enumerating certain articles that he will require for his Department, and stating their probable cost. For the payment of such of them as are to be purchased in Philadelphia, Mr Cammack will, in a day or two, send you a check. Mr Tyler informs me that it will be necessary to import the Rolls from England. Will you do me the favor to order them for us, with instructions to Ship them to this Port. Dr Riddell is expected to day. We are now ready to recommence operations, with every thing in complete order.

Very respectfully
& Obed Servt
R. M. Patterson Esqr
Director of the Mint of
the U. S.
Philad.a

RG104 Entry 11

Forwarding Bills of Lading Nos. 61 & 63.

Mint Office

Nov. 2d, 1840.

Sir, † (See below)

On the 28th of Sept., I sent you a letter (under date of the 26th,) replying to yours of the 4th on the subject of Extra Assays, — to Mr. Cunningham's inquiries respecting the Saltpetre, — and sending a copy of our Profit & Loss Warrant for recoinage of foreign coins, — and lastly asking your Returns for 1841, at as early a day as possible. I have not yet received an answer to this letter and I am apprehensive of the same difficulties as to your estimates as were presented last year. Indeed, my general estimates for the Mint and its Branches, is detained now only for this essential document.

Very

R. M. P.

To

Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

† I send herewith two Bills of lading for articles shipped by us for the use of your Mint. Other articles ordered will be forwarded as soon as they are in readiness.

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the month of October 1840.

Deposites

Kinds of Deposite	Gross Weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dw	Ounces	dw	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Bullion	491	20	511	09	9507	51	9484	99		
Foreign Coins	2911	21	2733	07	50857	13	50857	13		
									60364	64
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	1255	20	1311	03	1526	11	1520	09		
Foreign Coins	54185	11	53921	12	62758	58	62672	69		
									64192	72
Total deposites									124647	36

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
None					
Silver:					
Half Dollars	30000	15000	00		
Half Dimes	80000	4000	00		
				19000	00
Total Coinage				19000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, October 31st 1840

H. Cammack Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

New Orleans Nov 4 1840

Sir,

I have this moment received from Mr Cammack a Statement of our Operations for October which I hasten to enclose - Dr Riddell's return to this did not take place until two weeks after the time I fixed at the period of his departure for Pha He was detained a considerable time in Louisville by the low Stage of the Ohio river and was at last compelled to cross over to St Louis and come down the Mississippi.

My not having sent you sooner the Estimate on expenses for the year 1841 has been caused by a severe indisposition which has confined me for several days to my bed -

We have agreed upon it as follows.

Compensation to	Supt	—	$2500
"	Foreman	—	2000
"	Assayer	—	2000
"	Melter & Refiner	—	2000
"	Coiner	—	2000
"	2 Clerks @ $1200	2400	12400
Compensation to laborers in the Coining departments			24000
Incidental & Contingent expenses including			5000
Wastage of Gold and Silver			
			$54000

The incidental and contingent expenses for 184 was set down at $5000 & from the knowledge

RG104 Entry 11

[illegible] be required to coin the change for mutilated and Silver, which will be necessary in proportion to the increased Coinage which is anticipated, and to make up any loss that may arise from the wearing of the public money deposited in the Mint under the Deficiency Law.

I have requested the Secretary of the Treasury to remit you the Sum of One Thousand Dollars for the payment of salaries to be purchased by you for the use of the Mint.

I am very respectfully
Your Obed. Serv.
J. Mc Kenney
Act.

R. M. Patterson Esqr.
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Nov 8. 1840

Sir,

You will much oblige me by sending us the following dies, which Mr Taylor thinks will be sufficient for the remainder of the year 1840 -

1 pr 1/2 Dollar with two extra tails
1 pr 1/4 dito
1 pr 1/2 Eagle

The 1/2 Dollar dies will be the soonest required as we have 1/2 one pair of that denomination which have not been used.

Allow me also to request you to have our dies for the year 1841 commenced in time to get ready to use by the 1st of January.

I am very respectfully
Your obed. Servt

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
Of the U. S.
Phila.

S. Mordecai
Supt

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
Novemr. 10th 1840

Sir,

From a letter of the 2d inst received this day from T. M. Kennedy Esq Superintendt of the Br. Mint of the U. S. at New Orleans I transmit the following extract.

"for contingent expenses you will oblige me by remitting $1000 "to Dr. Patterson for the purchase from time to time in Philadel- "phia of such articles for the use of the Mint as are not to be pro- "cured here."

Agreeably to this request a Warrant has this day issued in your favor as Director of the Mint for the sum of $1000.

Very Respectfully Sir
Your most Obt. Svt.

Secretary of the Treasury

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the U. S.
Mint at Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

An Estimate of the Expenses of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, for the year 1841.

	Dollars.	Dollars.
For Salaries of Officers & Clerks.		
The Superintendent	2,500.	
The Treasurer	2,000	
The Coiner	2,000	
The Assayer	2,000	
The Melter & Refiner	2,000	
Two Clerks at $1200 each	2,400	12,900.
For Compensation to Workmen, ~~the Laborers & Depositaries~~		22,000.
For Incidental & Contingent Expenses; including fuel, materials, loss, & Wastage of Gold & Silver.		17,100.
		52,000.

Mint of the United States,
Nov. 10. 1840.

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans November 13th 1840

Sir,

I am requested by Dr Riddell, to write for some 25 or 30 Carboys of Silver acid, for "separating," of a quality superior to the last, which is very inconvenient on account of the large admixture of Muriatic acid." Your early attention to this order will confer a favor on us.

I received yesterday your letter inclosing two Bills of lading for articles, purchased by you for the use of our Mint, and stating, that you had not yet got an answer in relation to our Estimate for 1841. Dr Riddell, whom we wished to commence, did not arrive, as I have before mentioned to you, until the middle of October. In the hurry and anxiety at that time, to get every thing in readiness for an immediate resumption of operations, the consideration of the matter was, unfortunately, [redacted] entirely lost sight of. In the mean time, I read, as I have also before stated to you, prevented by a severe indisposition from attending to business for several days.

I trust that these reasons will be

admitted
the estimation, particularly when it is considered
that you will still have received our Estimate
in season to lay it before the Treasury Department
some three weeks prior to the opening of Congress
to be incorporated in a Bill, which is generally
I believe, not passed until towards the close
of the Session.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully
Your obd.t Servant
S. McKennan
Supt.

R. M. Patterson Esq.r
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Phila.a

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.
Nov. 16 1850.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 14th inst., with the monthly report of your operations for October.

I am glad to learn that D. Riddle is now again at his post. I hope that your efforts will join their exertions, for the purpose of having the least possible amount of bullion uncoined, at the close of the year, when you send me your annual report.

I have duly received, and placed to the credit of your Mint, the thousand dollars transmitted to me, from the Treasury Department, at your request, for the prepayment of bills for ~~articles~~ purchased here for the use of your mint.

I regret to learn that you have been ill, and that there was so sad a cause for the delay in sending on your estimate for 1851. As the regulations of the Department did not admit of so long a postponement on my part, I was under the necessity of assuming your wants for the coming year to be the same as for the present, and accordingly I sent the same estimate, viz.

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For Salaries, ~~of Officers &c~~ ——— $12,900.
Wages, ——— 22,000
Contingents, ——— 17,100
$52,100

If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I will, on your so informing me, make application for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it.

~~I had hoped from~~

Dr. Riddell told me, I think it was his opinion that your Subtreasury deposites were principally in Mexican dollars, and, as these ~~in hand prior to this measure, I hoped~~ are worth something more than their nominal value, I had hoped that there would not be the loss, which you speak of, in the receivings of public moneys deposited at the offices. I will feel much obliged to you for a statement of this account.

P. M. P.

Jno. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Dep. Pr. Sec. Treas., &c.

P.S. I send herewith copies of the bills rendered to me, of articles purchased for your Mint, & forwarded on the bills of lading sent to you on the 2d inst. Should the articles received not correspond with the invoices, I will thank you to inform me.

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Deposits for recoinage from the subtreasury fund.

Gold Act 70. Sovereigns.	Value by tale.	Assay.	per do.	
	$ 13.493.59. +	915.	$ 13.477.30	
" French Coins.	4.215.75.	895.	4.183.38	
Silver. 342. Mex. Dollars	30.000. —	896.	30.123.43	
358. Span. Coins	2.056.17	895.	2.017.17	
395. Span. Coins	8.913.27	895.		
Mex. Dollars.	15.000. —	896.		
	20.913.27		20.644.82	
397. Span. Coins	17.480.19. +	900.	17.458.67	
419. Mex. Dollars	30.000. —	895.	30.094.26	
	$ 118.188.97		$ 118.005.43	
	Loss to date		183.54	
+ tales assumed.			$ 118.188.97	

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, Nov. 30th 1840
H. Chammack
Treas

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir,

A parcel transmitted, by the present Mail, to the Sec. of Treasury, to be forwarded to you under his frank, a box containing one Quarter half dollar dies, for 1840. We shall send in like manner, by some conveyance, 1 pr. of Dollar, & 1 pr. of Quarter dies; and on the day after Christmas Half dollar dies, all for 1840.

The dies for 1841 are in a course of preparation.

R. M. P.
Director.

To
Jas. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. U.S. Mint,
New Orleans.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 1. 1840.

Sir

I take the liberty of transmitting to you, by the present mail, a box of dies, directed to the mint envelope to the Superintendent of New Orleans Br. Mint — to be forwarded under your frank. Two boxes more will be sent in the same manner, by the next two mails.

R. M. P.
Director

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury

Dec. 1. sent 1 pr. ½ $ dies
2 " 1 " ½ dime "
3 " 2 sent ¼ $ "

RG104 Entry 11

Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in the Month of November 1846

Deposites

Kind of Deposites	Gross weight after melting		Standard Weight		Value before deductions		Value after deductions		Total Value before deductions	
	Ounces	dwts	Ounces	dwts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:										
Foreign Coins	1029	47	1040	15	19352	27	19352	27	19352	27
Silver:										
Foreign Bullion	389	90	361	95	423	49	423	16		
Foreign Coins	102477	35	102809	24	118701	40	118663	01		
									119124	89
									138477	16

Coinage

Denomination	Number of pieces	Value		Total Value	
		Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
Gold:					
Half Eagles	14000	70000	00		
				70000	00
Silver:					
Half Dollars	146000	73000	00		
Quarter Dollars	108000	27000	00		
Dimes	265000	26500	00		
Half Dimes	70000	3500	00		
				130000	00
		550.00			
				200000	00

Branch Mint of the United States, New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, December 1st 1846
M. Chumacker
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans
December 4. 1840

Sir,

I enclose the Statement of our operations for November and, at your request a memorandum of the Expenditures for coinage from the Subtreasury funds. Upon the subject of these deposits, or also in relation to our Estimate for the year 1841 allow me to give you an extract from a communication I have just received from Mr Cramond at whose suggestion it was, that the additional sum of $20 000 was asked, for the next year.

"As to the estimate for the ordinary expenses of the "Mint for the year 1841, I of course cannot know "as well as yourself what will be required. I put "down what I supposed would be the amount. "I never expected that there would be a loss on "the re-coinage of the Subtreasury funds, but the "result of our operations thus far, shews that it was "prudent to be provided against it. Had I not "paid out a large amount of foreign gold which "could not be coined at the time, the loss would "have been greater. If the full mintage allowed "by law is to be demanded by the officers of the Mint, "the full amount of the estimate which has been "made by the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia "will, I think, be required to cover the expenses."

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on the evening of the spelling Mercury &. But I am nevertheless of opinion that your Estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our Coinage for the next year will, I hope, be very heavy - Should it prove so, the difference in amount between the two will probably be required for two days

With great respect
Yr obt Servt
P McKenney
Dep.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
of the U. S.
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States
Dec. 8th, 1840.

Sir,

In consequence of a recent correspondence with the Secretary of the Treasury, I have felt myself authorized to apply for an increase of the gun U.S. deposite, to the amount of at least $100,000, and I have no doubt that it will be promptly granted.

R. M. P.
Dall.

To
Wm. M. Kennedy, Esq
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
December 10. 1820.

Sir,

The President decided, in Sept^r. Last, to allow the necessary expenses incurred by D^r. Riddell, in travelling from N. Orleans to Philad^a and N. York and back on matters relating to the operations of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans.

The enclosed bill, presented by D^r. Riddell to the Treasurer of the Br. Mint at N. Orleans, has been submitted for the sanction of the Department. I will thank you to state, whether, in your opinion, the bill is reasonable in amount.

Very Respectfully
Sam^l Southard
Sec. of the Treasury

D^r. R. M. Patterson —
Director of the Mint
Philad^a

RG104 Entry 11

Mint N. O.

Dec. 14, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. inclosing a bill presented by D. Riddell to the Treasurer of the Mint New Orleans, of $375, for his "necessary expenses incurred in travelling from New Orleans, to the City of New York & back, in relation to that Mint" You ask me to state "whether in my opinion this bill is reasonable in amount.

In reply, I have to state, that, from the inquiries which I have made, I have no doubt that D. Riddell's journey visit to this Mint or. may have cost him the full sum which he demands; but it may expressly understood between us, when he asked the letter which I wrote to you on the 11th Sept. last, that the allowance if made to him at all, should only be for his necessary expenses incurred on the road while actually travelling. I cannot understand that this limitation has been neglected in the claim presented by D. Riddell; but if not his expenses were certainly extraordinary, - much greater than I had ever supposed they could reach on such a journey.

I would respectfully recommend that the bill be referred back to the Supt. of the N.O. Mint,

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without whose assent it cannot be paid, / and that he be instructed to satisfy himself, from Dr. Riddell's bill of items, and if he deem it necessary, other sources of information, what were the necessary ~~and~~ expenses incurred on Dr. Riddell's journey, & that for this amount he address his warrant on the Treasurer.

The original bill is returned herewith enclosed.

Dear Sir

Your most obedt. servt.

TH: JEFFERSON

To / Hon. Levi Woodbury, Sec. of Treas.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 18th, 1840.

Sir,

On the estimate for the Mint and its Branches which I had the honor to send to you on the 11th inst., I make the following remark.

"The estimate for the New Orleans Branch Mint is the same as that granted for the present year. On the 25th of Sept., I wrote to the Superintendent of that Mint, to ask for his estimate to form the basis of that which I was called upon to present to you. My letter has not brought an answer; and, as I cannot consent to delay this communication longer I am under the necessity of assuming that the expenses for the coming year will be the same as that for the last."

~~On the 16th of January, I was~~

The whole amount of this estimate was $52,000; viz.

For Salaries, $ 12,900
Wages, 22,000
Contingents, 17,100
$ 52,100

On the 16th of ~~$ 52,100~~ November, I received from New Orleans the estimate for which I had written. Its amount was $ 54,000. viz.

RG104 Entry 11

Salaries, of Superintendent $2500
Treasurer 2000
Assayer 2000
Melter & Refiner 2000
Coiner 2000
Four Clerks 2400
12,900
Wages of Workmen, 21,000
Incidental & Contingent Expenses 20,100
$54,000

In reply to the letter giving the above estimate, I informed Mr. Kennedy of the alteration which had permitted; and said, — "If you deem it necessary to amend this estimate so as to correspond with your own, I would, on your so informing me, make application, for this purpose, to the Department. If you can make out with the sum I have asked, I would advise it."

I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Kennedy, of the 4th inst., in which he says: — "I am of opinion that your estimate should be so amended as to make it correspond with ours. Our coinage, for the next year, will, I hope, be very heavy. Should it prove so, the difference in amount between the two [$2000] will probably be required for [additional] wastage."

I comply with my promise to Mr. Kennedy by laying this communication before you; but, at the same time, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the necessity for so large an item of contingent expenses, especially with a view of providing for an unusually anticipated wastage. In a note from the Treasurer of the Mint at Philadelphia to the Superintendent, of which a copy was sent to me, he says: — "If the full wastage allowed by law is to be claimed by the Officers of the Mint, the full amount of the estimate which has been sent to the Director of the Mint, will, I think, be required to cover expenses." I am surprised to find it should be deemed possible that the limit of allowance prescribed by law can be reached in the wastage. This cannot happen without great carelessness, or loss from robbery. Our wastage, for the last year, at the Mint, was but about $3,000 on a coinage of $2,000,000. I may add, too, that our estimate, for the present year, for incidental and contingent expenses, including wastage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationary, water rent, and taxes," is $6,000. — The corresponding item which I have asked for the Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

about is $17,100, — that which they expect is $20,100.

R. M. T.

To/
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Sec. of Treasury.

Dec. 18 1840.

Dep. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 18, 1840.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., with the abst of your operations for Nov^r, which is very satisfactory.

I have also to thank you for the report on the deposits for coinage from the Philadelphia. On this I have to remark, that the reports always have carried us some fineness, — all of them seeming too low to correspond with our experience. Thus we find the average fineness of British Sovereigns to 915½ full, instead of 915. Mex. dollars 897, instead of 896 & 895. Spanish coins 898, instead of 895. Dutch five franc pieces commonly rise to 901, except those of more recent date. Since the introduction of the Assay. In the gold there is an item of $4215.75 of Dutch coins reported at the fineness of 895. This, it appears to us must surely be a mistake; the legal standard being 901 since the revolution, and 916 before it.

I have found the loss on the coinage of Spanish and Mexican dollars, at this Mint, to considerable, — principally owing to deficient weight, especially in halves & quarters, — that I have directed that this part of the coinage of subsidiary Money shd cease. As these coins are of denominations answering to our money of account, there is no inconvenience in their circulation. It is at your option to follow the same course which I have adopted.

RG104 Entry 11

Let me beg you to give me, at as early a day as possible after the close of the year, the information necessary for my annual report, as to what concerns your Mint.

I have sent, to the Sec. of Treasy, your estimate for 1841, with the remarks which you make on the subject, which lead you to think that it might be substituted for that which I sent. I must observe, however, that I am strongly impressed with the conviction that your item of Contingent Expenses is unnecessarily large. The idea of Mr. Cammack, that the Melter & Coiner may possibly make a Wastage reaching the limit set by the law, is not to be entertained even hypothetically. — Nothing but the greatest carelessness, or loss by robbery, could lead to such a result. Our total wastage, last year, was but about $3,000, on a Coinage of $2,000,000. — Let me also state that our estimates, this year, for incidental & Contingent expenses, including wastage of gold & silver, fuel, Materials, Stationary, water-rent, and taxes, is $16,000. The corresponding item which I have asked for your Mint is $13,100; and that which you ask $20,100.

Let me call your attention to the necessity of forwarding the Coin delivered at your Mint for the Annual Assay made here in February.

You will also send me a report of the destination of the dies of 1840, as instructed in my Letter of June 4, 1839, & Jan. 16, 1840.

Have any measures been yet taken as to your Concert? Dr. Riddell went to N. York, to make enquiries & arrangements as to this matter; but I know that the Person to whom he spoke has heard nothing from him since.

(Signed) R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/

Jas. M. Kennedy, Esq.
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

P.S. — We shall send you, by monday, through the Sec. of Treasury, 1 Head & dollar, & 1 Head & Half dollar die; ~~& by~~ and by the next mail, 1 Head & Eagle, 1 Head dime, & 1 Head & dime die, — all for 1841.

RG104 Entry 11

Mint U. S.

Dec. 19, 1840.

Sir,

I take the liberty of sending you, by the present mail, a box of dies, addressed on the inner envelope to the Supt of Navy Yd. Mint, - to be forwarded under your frank as usual. We shall send another box on Monday. (These are the first dies of 1841(?))

Very respectfully,

your faithful Servt.

R. M. P.

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
December 21. 1840.

Sir

Yours of the 18th & 19th have been received and a box of dies for the N. Orleans Branch Mint which shall be immediately forwarded.

The estimates as furnished by you on the 10th ult. have been submitted to Congress - and I will thank you to write to the Superintendent at N. Orleans, stating to him that fact and urging, if you have not already done so, the greatest economy in the expenditures as you have proposed.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Sec. of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philada

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RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 22. 1840.

Sir,

Herewith I send you a bill of lading of acid shipped on the 14th inst, for the use of your Mint.

Mr. Parr assures me that great care has been taken in the preparation of this lot of acid, and he feels confident that Dr. Riddell will find its quality much superior to the last. I will thank you to inform me, if this is not the case.

Very respy.
yr. faithfl. Svt.
R. M. P.
Director.

To
Jno. M. Kennedy,
Supt. Br. Mint,
New Orleans.

per Jno. F. Dunning
Director's Clerk.

Treasury Department
December 22. 1840.

Sir

It has been intimated to the Department that the Branch Mint at N. Orleans had never been furnished with Eagle dies, and suggesting, whether it would not be proper to furnish them.

I will thank you to give your attention to the matter, and, if you shall think it expedient to do so, to cause them to be sent at as early a period as practicable - and, also, to urge upon the Officers of that branch the necessity of great industry & of doing (pushing the coinage) all in the way of coining that their means will enable them to perform.

Very Respectfully

Levi Woodbury

Sec. of the Treas.

R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philad.a

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RG104 Entry 11

Mint of the United States,
Dec. 26th, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d inst., in which you state that it has been suggested to the Department whether it would not be proper to furnish the New Orleans Mint with Eagle dies. As this is the second time that this suggestion has been made, I must suppose that there is some particular desire to have this variety of gold coin struck at New Orleans, and I have accordingly ordered a pair of dies to be immediately prepared. It has appeared to me, however, that the smaller denominations were better suited to the amount of the deposites at this Mint, and that the trouble and expense of making the fixtures for the Eagle ought to be avoided. The whole amount of gold deposited in 1839 was but $88,907; and in the eleven months which have elapsed of the present year, the amount is but $239,927. These are very small sums, and have, as I think properly, been coined into half and quarter-eagles. — Still, I can have no possible objection to furnish Eagle dies, and the Superintendent, on consultation with the depositors, will then have a full choice as to the denominations to be coined. — If Congress

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would repeal the law making foreign gold coins a legal tender on terms which keep them from leaving, the operations of the New Orleans Mint, in this State, might make the Striking of Eagles ~~by~~ desirable.

In the conclusion of your letter you ask me "to urge upon the Officers of the New Orleans Branch the necessity of great industry and activity in the coming year." — I shall be happy to communicate your desires in this matter, in which I join; but I would, I think, be doing injustice to those officers, were I to allow it to be inferred that their business has been neglected. I have before me the reports for the present year, up to the beginning of December. The amount of deposites was $741,023, and that of coinage $813,600. — No remark is necessary on this statement. All the deposites have been coined, and the deficiencies of the last year, caused by debt of Officers and Men, repaired. If this Mint has not answered the expectations of some of its most sanguine advocates, the fault lies in the small amount of the deposites, over which the Officers have no control.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson
Director

To,
Hon. Levi Woodbury,
Secretary of Treasury.

Mint of the U. S.
Dec. 28, 1840.

Sir,

The enclosed letter, of the 26th, was detained, in consequence of an error committed in a post-script, which I have now suppressed. It regarded the receivings of Subtreasury deposites at the New Orleans Mint. I will now state, that a report on this subject, made at my request, presents the whole amount of receivings at $118,185.97 of which deposites, producing $118,005.43 in our coins. Of the deposites $17,709.34 were in gold, and $100,479.63 in silver. The principal loss is on the receivings of Spanish & Mexicans half & quarter dollars, which are much below the standard weight. —

R. M. T. D.

To/ Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec. of Treasury.

RG104 Entry 11

Treasury Department
Dec.r 30. 1840.

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 26th & 26th and to express my gratification at the favorable account you give of the operations of the Branch Mint at N. Orleans.

Very Respectfully
Asst Secretary
Sec. of the Treasury.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

RG104 Entry 11

From
A. G. Cammack, Esq.
Treas. Br. Mint.
New Orleans.
July 14.
Recd " 27. 1840.

Branch Mints New Orleans.
Dr. A. G. Cammack Treasurer
Quarter ending 31st Dec. 1839

Copy.

Dr. The United States, for the Building & Machining of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, as paid to the following persons from the 1st October to the 31st December 1839 inclusive, in pursuance of Warrants of the Superintendent of the, marginal date and numbers, viz;

1839	Warrt			Warr	Dolls	cts
Dec 7	234	To	George Sire	for Carpenters work &c	1	375 —
18	242		S. D. Ferguson	" work done per bill	2	189 —
31	246		Mrs. Logan	" Ranging bells	3	72 —
	255		Lurds & Co	" Chimneys for Coining dept	4	20 48
	256		S. Kiderlin	" Paper hanging &c	5	119 —
	257		A. Tebrocht	" do do	6	43 50
	259		G. Hadley	" Lumber & Carpenters work	7	45 —
	260		J. Frazer	" Lumber	8	31 71
	261		E. Blanc	" 3000 Bricks	9	39 —
	262		B. Baggett	" painting Steaming &c	10	242 25
	265		Walsh & Lydd	" repairing roof &c	11	71 75
	268		Allen & Bell	" Irons for the Vaults &c	12	326 —
	272		Brig. & Fox	" Carpenters work	13	125 —
	275		B. Baggett	" painting Offices &c	14	211 25
						$1913 94

Branch Mint of the United States,
New Orleans Treasurers Office
31st December 1839.
A. G. Cammack
Treasurer

RG104 Entry 11